

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Wednesday, February 12, 2014



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US agency says farm law to boost food aid abroad

MARY JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Rajiv Shah says changes to the way the United States distributes food aid could help feed 800,000 more people abroad, many of them Syrian refugees. The changes come in a wide-ranging farm law signed by President Barack Obama last week. A recent bipartisan budget agree-

ment would also help pay for the aid.

The new farm law would allow the United States to make a small increase in the amount of food aid that is given out as cash or vouchers. Currently, most food aid is grown in the United States and shipped to developing countries, an approach the Obama administration says is inefficient.

Shah said the need for emergency food aid is high

right now, especially with a humanitarian crisis in Syria that has caused millions to flee their homes.

"We feel it's a critically urgent time to be as efficient and effective as possible," Shah said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The farm law would make it easier for the government to buy food closer to where it's needed and also would allocate more money toward that local procurement. □



USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah speaks in Coral Gables, Fla. Shah says changes to the way the US distributes food aid could help feed 800,000 more people abroad, many of them Syrian refugees.
(AP Photo/J Pat Carter)

Group calls on US to reform visa programs

HOLBROOK MOHR
Associated Press

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP) — A prominent civil rights group is urging the U.S. State Department to reform cultural exchange programs, saying those have left some foreign participants vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. The Southern Poverty Law Center says in a report Tuesday that cultural exchange programs are providing U.S. businesses with cheap and exploitable labor at the expense of participants who pay thousands of dollars to experience American culture. The lengthy report also cites a 2010 investigation by The

Associated Press that uncovered similar labor and housing problems in the J-1 Summer Work Travel program, which annually allows more than 100,000 foreign college students to spend their summers working in the U.S.

SPLC says it responded to complaints throughout the South.

Susan Pittman, a spokeswoman with the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, said in a telephone interview Tuesday that she couldn't respond directly to the report. But she said the agency has made a number of improvements, including passage of stron-

ger regulations in 2012.

The new rules included capping the number of participants in the Summer Work Travel program at 109,000 and limiting the kinds of jobs that participants are allowed to take in an effort to ensure a strong cultural component in the program.

Pittman also said a number of companies designated by the State Department as official sponsors to facilitate the program have been sanctioned or removed from the program and that the agency has increased staff and site visits to check on sponsors and participants. □



The Royal Caribbean International's Explorer of the Seas is docked at Charlotte Amalie Harbor in St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands. Caribbean tourists are spending more money during their visits to the region, with the jump in expenditures surpassing the rise in arrivals for the first time in three years, according to a statement on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014 by Johnson JohnRose, spokesman for the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

(AP Photo/Thomas Layer)

Report:

Caribbean tourism spending up in 2013

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Caribbean tourists are spending more money during their visits to the region, with the jump in expenditures surpassing the rise in arrivals for the first time in three years, according to new statistics.

The U.S. remains the Caribbean's core market, while there was a drop in visitors from the United Kingdom and Europe and nearly zero growth in Canadian travelers, according to a statement issued Tuesday by Johnson JohnRose, spokesman for the Caribbean Tourism Organization. Visitors spent more than \$28 billion last year, a more than 2 percent increase from 2012, CTO chairwoman Beverly Nicholson-Doty announced Monday. The hotel sector also reported a more than 7 percent rise in room revenues.

However, the region saw only a 1.8 percent increase in arrivals last year, compared to a 5 percent increase in 2012. Overall, more than 25 million people visited the Caribbean in 2013, in part thanks to a surge in tourists from new markets, Nicholson-Doty said.

"While the main source markets are sputtering, tourists from South America are flocking to the region in large numbers," she said.

Some 1.5 million tourists from South America visited the Caribbean last year, an increase of 13 percent from the previous year and of 70 percent compared with 2009, with many drawn to the Dutch Caribbean. Brazilians in particular have been exploring the Caribbean, but only a portion of it, said Richard Doumeng, president of the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association. "Statistically, it looks very encouraging, but if you really look at it, almost all of that growth is going to the Dominican Republic and Cuba in general," he said in a phone interview.

Cruises also remained popular, and last year's summer months were the best ever for the Caribbean, Nicholson-Doty said. Twice as many destinations saw an increase in activity last year compared with 2013, with the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao seeing the biggest jump in cruise ship passengers for the region last year. □



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Obama, Hollande speak out on Iran sanctions

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama vowed Tuesday to come down like "a ton of bricks" on firms that violate sanctions against Iran, speaking at a joint news conference with French President Francois Hollande, who defended a trip by French businesses executives to Tehran.

The United States and France are among the countries that signed an interim nuclear agreement with Tehran. The agreement halts progress on the Islamic republic's nuclear program in exchange for easing international sanctions. Talks on a final deal begin next week in Vienna, Austria.

Speaking on companies doing business with Iran in violation of sanctions still in place, Obama said, "We will come down on them like a ton of bricks" if they don't hold up their end.

The Obama administration has objected to the interest French businesses have shown in Iran since the sanctions were eased. More than 100 French executives visited Tehran last week, a trip Secretary of State John Kerry told his counterparts in Paris was "not helpful."

Hollande said he told the French businessmen that sanctions remain in effect and no commercial agreements can be signed

without a long-term, comprehensive nuclear deal. But he said he's not president of the French employer's union and companies make their own travel decisions.

The United States and France also have been working to end the violent civil war in Syria, a former French colony. But peace talks between the Syrian government and opposition forces have gained no traction.

Obama acknowledged that Syrian peace talks are far from reaching their goal.

"There's enormous frustration here," he said of the negotiations.

An agreement to strip Syria of its chemical weapons stockpiles is being carried out. But there are concerns on both sides of the Atlantic that Syria is stalling on its obligations.

When Obama threatened a military strike against Syria following a chemical weapons attack there last year, France was the only European ally ready to join that effort.

Obama said the United States and France have

rebuilt a relationship that "would have been unimaginable even a decade ago," after President George W. Bush launched an unpopular war against Iraq.

There has been some tension between the U.S. and its allies in Europe and elsewhere following revelations that their leaders had been subject to spying

from the National Security Agency.

Obama said there is no country with which the United States has "a no-spy agreement." But he says the United States endeavors to protect privacy rights as it collects foreign intelligence. Hollande said he and Obama "clarified things" about the spying revelations and "mutual

trust has been restored."

"That mutual trust must be based on respect for each other's country but also based on protection, protection of private life, of personal data, the fact that any individual, in spite of technological progress, can be sure that he's not being spied on. These are principles that unite us," Hollande said. □



President Barack Obama walks with French President Francois Hollande during a state arrival ceremony for Hollande, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

AP NEWSBREAK: House passes debt ceiling increase

ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-controlled House has backed away from a showdown over the government's debt cap and passed a measure

extending Treasury's borrowing authority with overwhelming support from President Barack Obama's Democratic allies.

The 221-201 vote came hours after Republican Speaker John Boehner an-

nounced that his fractured party would relent and not seek to add other items to the must-pass legislation.

Twenty-eight Republicans voted yes. The bill would permit Treasury to borrow normally for another 13

months and would diffuse the chance of a debt crisis well past the November elections.

Both parties backed off the bitter fiscal battles that have gripped Washington in recent years. □

Christie says bridge scandal won't impede work

THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said Tuesday that the bridge scandal facing him is disappointing but not a distraction from his job as governor — or from his effort to raise money for Republican candidates for governor. Christie is a top contender for the party's presidential nomination and the scandal could affect his chances. He spoke during an hourlong question-and-answer session moderated by Motorola Solutions CEO Greg Brown, a Christie friend. Brown, reading questions selected by the club's board, asked Christie if the investigation would hamper his second-term agenda.

It was the only question on the subject. "While the last six weeks have not been the most enjoyable of my life, the fact is we have to do our work," Christie told about 1,600 people at the Economic Club of Chicago. It was the only question about the scandal posed to Christie during his first major public appearance since the January news conference in which he acknowledged that his administration had ordered lanes leading to the George Washington Bridge closed in September. Ahead of the event the Republican Governors Association, of which Christie is the elected president, touted his fundraising prowess for other Republican can-



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie speaks to the Economic Club of Chicago on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014 in Chicago. Christie is in town to raise money for the Republican Governors Association that he chairs.

(AP Photo/Paul Beaty)

didates. Emails from a top political

adviser and between a top Christie aide and a Port Authority official he appointed cast the traffic-snarling lane closures as retaliation for a local mayor's decision not to endorse Christie's re-election.

Christie fired the aide and his political adviser but has denied authorizing or even knowing about the scheme until the emails became public last month. "If there's more action that needs to be taken, I'll take

it," Christie said in Chicago. "But it won't curtail for the long term a second-term agenda."

The speech in Chicago was supposed to be Christie's debut as a national political leader after his landslide re-election in November.

He also is the chairman of the Republican Governors Association, which has been a gateway for past Republican presidential candidates. □

NYC mayor's agenda faces opposition

JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio laid out a sweeping liberal agenda that calls for taking on the growing gap between the rich and everyone else during his first State of the City address, but many of his ambitious proposals may find a difficult path to passage. The new mayor of America's largest city campaigned for the office with a focus on income disparity and has become a leading spokesman in the movement to address inequality. But in order to enact some of his signature ideas, he must first get approval from state lawmakers in Albany. The state legislature must sign off on de Blasio's hopes to raise the minimum wage for city residents and for the centerpiece of his

agenda: a tax hike on the rich to fund universal pre-kindergarten.

"We're simply asking Albany to allow New York City to tax itself: its wealthiest residents, those making a half-million or more a year," de Blasio said Monday during his address at LaGuardia Community College in Queens. "Raising taxes on the rich makes our commitment to our kids more than just words. It makes that commitment real."

Because a New York City mayor does not have the ability to raise taxes, de Blasio has been aggressively courting state lawmakers to back his plan. Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who is up for re-election, has steadfastly refused to consider a tax hike, instead offering to dedicate existing money in the state budget to pay for the program. □

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Florida man charged in teen killing takes stand

DEREK KINNER

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP) —

The Florida man charged with fatally shooting a 17-year-old boy after an argument over loud music testified Tuesday that he thought he saw the barrel of a gun from a neighboring vehicle pointed at him and that he feared for his life before firing his weapon.

Dunn is charged with first-degree murder. He has pleaded not guilty and says he acted in self-defense when he fatally shot 17-year-old Jordan Davis outside a Jacksonville convenience store in November 2012.

The trial comes less than a year after a former Florida neighborhood watchman, George Zimmerman, was acquitted in the killing of an unarmed black teenager, Trayvon Martin.

Both cases have stoked racial tensions. Dunn is white and Davis was black. No weapons were found in the SUV where Davis was riding with two other teenagers.

Michael Dunn said he tried to de-escalate the confrontation with the teens. The defense rested its case Tuesday, and then prosecutors called Dunn's fiancée back to the witness stand. Rhonda Rouer contradicted Dunn's assertion that he had told her he had seen a gun in the teens' SUV.

Dunn told jurors he was in Jacksonville with his Rouer to attend his son's wedding. He said he and Rouer went to the convenience store after the wedding for wine and chips. He said he pulled into a spot next to an SUV where music with a "thumping" bass was playing. "It got really loud,"



Michael Dunn, takes the stand in his own defense during his trial in Jacksonville, Fla., Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014. Dunn is charged with fatally shooting 17-year-old Jordan Davis after an argument over loud music outside a Jacksonville, Fla. convenience store in 2012.

(The Florida Times-Union, Bob Mack, Pool)

Dunn said. "My rear view mirror was shaking. My eardrums were vibrating. It was ridiculously loud."

Dunn said he asked the three men in the SUV to turn down the music and they turned off the music. "I said, 'Thank you,'" Dunn said. But soon afterward, Dunn said he heard someone in the SUV shouting expletives at him and the word "cracker," a derogatory word for white people. The music was turned back on with a thumping bass. Dunn said when the music was turned back on "I wasn't going to ask for favors anymore."

Dunn said the men in the SUV had "menacing expressions" and he asked the teens if they were talking about him. He said he wanted to de-escalate the situation but he saw a teen in the backseat reach down for something which he slammed into the car door. □

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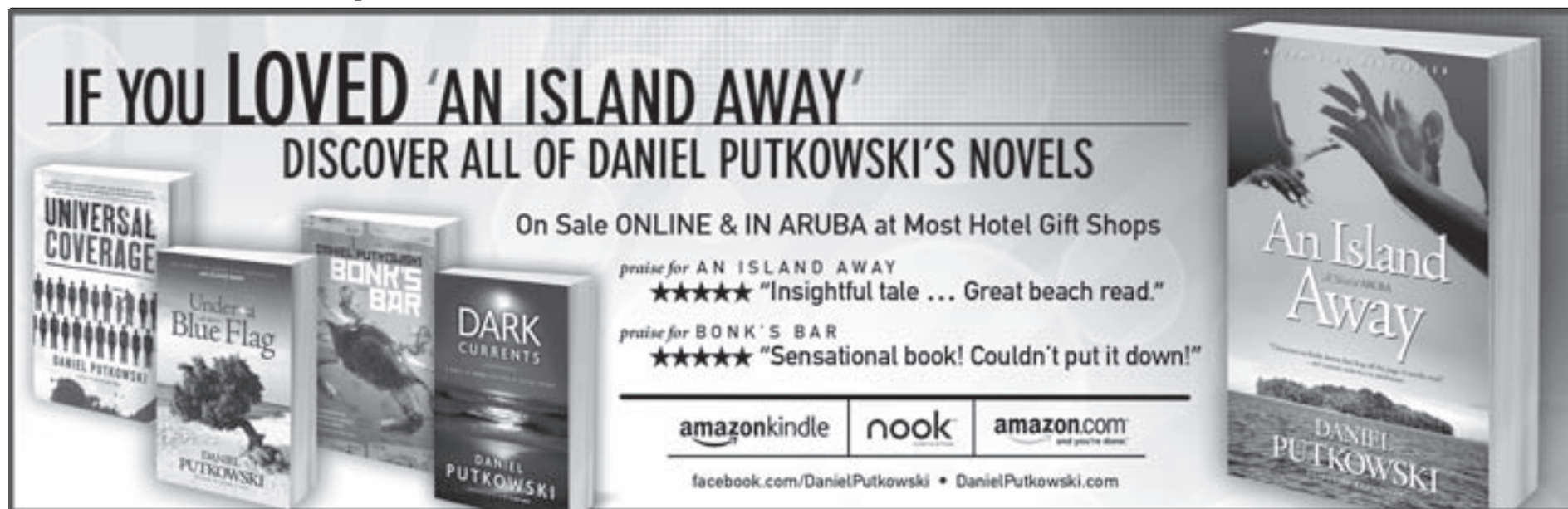
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Gay teen achieves Eagle Scout milestone

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press

CHEVY CHASE, Maryland (AP) — Change is coming quickly to the Boy Scouts of America after years of turmoil and debate over its membership policy, with an openly gay 17-year-old achieving the highest rank of Eagle Scout. On Monday night, Boy Scout Troop 52 of Chevy Chase, Maryland, one of the oldest troops, formed

gay adult leaders remains in place. Scoutmaster Don Beckham walked to the middle of the Scout circle after a series of announcements about supplies for the next campout and announced the 17-year-old Tessier was officially the troop's newest Eagle. For Tessier, it represents six years of work, 27 merit badges and projects in service, leadership and outdoor skills. He put

cause you are helping to make something happen that is important for a lot of other people. ... And when it's a principle that you believe in, use your Scout training and stand up for what is right because a Scout is brave." Tessier's mom, Tracie Felker, looked on with other parents and said it was "a new era." The fight over the Boy Scouts' membership policy has persisted for decades,



Pascal Tessier, center, takes part in an activity with Matthew Huerta, left, and Michael Fine, right, after he received his Eagle Scout badge from Troop 52 Scoutmaster Don Beckham, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, in Chevy Chase, Md. Tessier, of Maryland, has become one of the first openly gay scouts to reach the highest rank of Eagle, following a policy change to allow gay youth in the Boy Scouts of America. (AP Photo/Luis M. Alvarez)

a circle and gave Pascal Tessier sustained applause and some handshakes and pats on the back. His achievement comes just weeks after the organization lifted its ban on gay youth and may make him the first publicly gay Eagle approved under the new policy. After a vote last year, the organization of 2.5 million youth members officially opened its doors to include all boys, regardless of sexual orientation. A ban on

all that at risk, though, to advocate publicly against the Scouts ban on gays. "A Scout is brave," Beckham told the troop, quoting from the Boy Scout Law after presenting Tessier his Eagle badge. "To be a leader, there are going to be situations where you are going to have to stand up for what you believe is right," Beckham said. "You may be asked to make personal sacrifices, to potentially give up your dreams be-

including a Supreme Court decision in 2000. For more than a year, Tessier, who lives in a Washington, D.C., suburb, has been one of the most prominent openly gay scouts speaking out to change the Scouts' long-standing ban. While there is no official tracking of gay members, Tessier is likely America's first openly gay Eagle approved under the new policy, according to the advocacy group Scouts for Equality. □

Anti-Defamation League's Director Foxman to retire

MICHAEL PAULSON
© 2014 New York Times

Abraham H. Foxman, a Holocaust survivor whose 50-year tenure battling anti-Semitism made him one of the visible and influential leaders of the American Jewish community, announced this week that he will retire next year as national director of the Anti-Defamation League. Foxman, who has headed the organization since 1987, played a central role in most of the major controversies involving Israel and the Jewish community in recent years, and has stirred up a few of his own. He was frequently lionized as a forceful defender of Jews and Israel, but periodically criticized as too quick to call criticism of Israel anti-Semitic and too hesitant to label the early 20th-century killings of Armenians in Turkey as genocide.

In a telephone interview, Foxman, 73, said he was ready for a change.

"Fifty years is long enough to be in one place, and I'm still vibrant enough to do a couple of other things," he said. "I hope I'll be able to continue to have a voice, and to speak on the issues I've dealt all my life with." A frequent guest in the White House and confidant of Israeli leaders, Foxman was a key proponent of strong Israeli-American relations.

Foxman said he was motivated to spend his life combating anti-Semitism by his own childhood experience. Born in Eastern

Europe in 1940, he was saved from the Holocaust by a Polish Catholic nanny. He immigrated to the United States in 1950, and joined the Anti-Defamation League the day after he passed the bar exam.

"It provided me with a platform to deal with the two things that formed my lifetime: the bigotry which almost destroyed me, and the human love and compassion which saved me," he said.

Foxman said he viewed as his organization's biggest single accomplishment one that took place before his arrival: the passage of a so-called anti-mask law in Georgia, designed to prevent Ku Klux Klan members from wearing hoods.

"Our Constitution guarantees you the right to be a bigot, but if you want to be a bigot, you have to take responsibility for your bigotry," he said.

The Anti-Defamation League, which has about 320 employees and an annual budget of about \$50 million, has advocated for civil rights, gay rights, and other causes.

"The ADL was best known in the Jewish community for battling anti-Semitism, but they have also taken on many other kinds of discrimination, and I think Abe should get credit for having expanded the horizons of people in the American Jewish community about the importance of fighting any and all discrimination," said Ruth W. Messinger, the president of American Jewish World Service. □

US Financial Front:

American job openings fall in December from 5-year high



Job seekers sign in before meeting prospective employers during a career fair at a hotel in Dallas. The Labor Department releases the job openings and labor turnover survey for December on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers posted fewer job openings in December and hiring slowed, adding to evidence that the job market weakened that

month.

Still, the number of available jobs remained near a five and a half-year high. The Labor Department said Tuesday that openings slipped 1 percent to 3.99 million in December, from

4.03 million in the previous month. November was the first time that employers had posted more than 4 million open jobs since

March 2008.

Total hiring fell to 4.4 million from 4.5 million in November, according to Tuesday's report. While job openings are mostly back to pre-recession levels, hiring is below the roughly 5 million a month that's typical for a healthy market.

Job gains slowed in January for the second straight month, according to last week's monthly employment report. That has raised concerns that the economy's momentum has stalled after healthy growth at the end of last year. January's report showed that employers added just 113,000 jobs, up from December's scant 75,000.

Both months were far below average monthly gains of 194,000 last year.

Most economists have partly blamed unseasonably cold weather for the slowdown. But there were

also some positive signs in last week's figures. The unemployment rate fell to 6.6 percent from 6.7 percent.

The January employment report showed net job gains, which is the number of people hired minus those who were laid off, quit or retired.

Tuesday's report, known as the Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey, provides more details. It shows the overall number of people hired each month, rather than just the net gain. Total hiring in December was the weakest in six months, according to the JOLTS report.

Quitting also declined in December, after reaching a five-year high in November. More quitting is a positive sign, because people usually quit when they either have a new job — typically for more pay — or are confident they can find one. □

US wholesale stockpiles rise 0.3%

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. wholesale businesses increased their stockpiles in December at the slowest pace since last summer, another sign that the economy lost some momentum at the end of 2013.

Wholesalers boosted stockpiles by 0.3 percent in December from November, smallest gain since July, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday.

Sales growth slowed to 0.5 percent December after healthy gains of 1 percent in November and 1.1 percent in October.

Rising stockpiles boost economic growth because they reflect expanding production at factories. Bigger inventories accounted for more than 40 percent of economic growth in the July through September period last year when gross domestic product increased at a robust 4.1 percent annual pace.

The surge in stockpiles slowed in the last three months of 2013, and overall growth fell back to a still-healthy 3.2 percent.

After the December increase, inventories at the wholesale level stood at a seasonally adjusted \$517.9 billion, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

The government tracks inventories held by wholesalers, manufacturers and retailers. A report covering all inventory levels comes out Thursday.

At the wholesale level, inventories of computer equipment rose by 5.3 percent after a healthy 3.6 percent gain in November. Automotive stockpiles rose 0.6 percent after dropping in November. Overall, inventories of long-lasting durable goods rose 1.3 percent in December. But non-durable goods stockpiles fell 1.3 percent, pulled down by a 5.2 percent drop in inventories of farm products. □

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Yellen to investors: Expect Fed continuity

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen sought Tuesday to reassure investors that she will embrace the approach to interest-rate policy that her predecessor, Ben Bernanke, pursued before he stepped down as chairman last month.

Yellen told Congress that if the economy keeps improving, the Fed will take "further measured steps" to reduce the support it's providing through bond purchases.

In her first public comments since taking over the top Fed job last week, Yellen said she expects a "great deal of continuity" with Bernanke. She signaled that she supports his view that the economy is strengthening enough to withstand a pullback in stimulus but that rates should stay low to further improve a still-lackluster economy.

Her message of continuity at the Fed was a reassuring one for investors, and it contributed to a rally on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 190 points in early-afternoon trading.

Yellen's remarks to a House committee suggested that the Fed will keep its key short-term rate near zero for a prolonged period.

"The recovery in the labor market is far from complete," Yellen said, an indication that the Fed is in no hurry to boost short-term rates.

She said the Fed is monitoring volatility in global markets but doesn't think it poses a serious risk to the United States at the current time. "Since the financial crisis and the depths of the recession, substantial progress has been made in restoring the economy to

health and strengthening the financial system," Yellen said in her testimony for the House Financial Services Committee. "Still, there is more to do."

Some Republicans ex-

pressed concern that the Fed's extraordinary support could eventually ignite high inflation or destabilize financial markets. The committee chairman, Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, a critic of the Fed, said there were "clearly limits to what monetary policy can achieve."



Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, before the House Financial Services Committee hearing. Yellen said Tuesday that if the economy keeps improving, the Fed will take "further measured steps" to reduce the support it's providing through monthly bond purchases.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

Hensarling questioned whether the Fed had sent confusing signals to investors by changing its possible timetable for future actions on interest rates. Yellen, the first woman to lead the central bank in its 100 years, was delivering the Fed's twice-a-year report a week after being sworn in to succeed Bernanke. He stepped down Jan. 31 after eight years as chairman.

Yellen, the first woman to lead the central bank in its 100 years, was delivering the Fed's twice-a-year report a week after being sworn in to succeed Bernanke. He stepped down Jan. 31 after eight years as chairman.

his three daughters and said: "You have done it the old-fashioned way. You have earned it."

She was pressed by some Republicans to explain why she opposed legislation that would subject the Fed to audits by the Government Accountability Office, the auditing arm of Congress, on its rate decisions. Yellen noted that the Fed is already subject to GAO audits in some areas. But she said that allowing the GAO to second-guess interest-rate actions would subject the Fed to improper political influence.

Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minnesota, argued that the Fed was wrong to oppose the audit legislation. "The American people are

feeling less and less empowered to hold the Fed responsible," Bachmann told Yellen.

At the other end of the political spectrum, Rep. David Scott, D-Georgia, urged

Yellen to be bolder in addressing long-term unemployment. He said many older workers who had been laid off and young people trying to enter the workforce were growing increasingly frustrated. He said Yellen should oppose Republican efforts to end the Fed's dual mandate to pursue maximum employment and price stability so it could focus solely on inflation. Yellen said she felt the Fed's dual mandate "has served this country well." Many economists think the Fed bond buying, which totaled \$85 billion a month during 2013, will be reduced in \$10 billion increments this year until the purchases are eliminated in December. □

US wants more information on female sex pill

AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. drugmaker working to develop a pill to boost sexual desire in women says regulators are demanding more studies on the experimental drug. Sprout Pharmaceuticals said Tuesday that the Food and Drug Administration wants to see more data on how the company's drug, flibanserin, interacts with other medications and how it affects driving ability. Nearly 10 percent of women studied in company trials reported sleepiness while taking the daily pill.

The FDA's request represents another hurdle in the pharmaceutical industry's 15-year search for a female equivalent to Viagra. But in a news release, Sprout Pharmaceuticals President Cindy Whitehead described the development as a "significant step toward the approval of flibanserin." The three studies requested by the FDA are relatively small, involving 25 to 50 patients each. The company says it plans to resubmit its drug application to FDA during the summer. The company said in December that it had reached an "impasse" with regulators after the agency issued a second rejection letter on the drug. The company filed a formal dispute over the agency's decision, which prompted the FDA's latest request for additional studies. If approved, Sprout's daily pill would be the first drug for women who report a lack of sexual desire, a market that drugmakers have been trying to tap since the blockbuster success of Viagra for men in the late 1990s. □



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Iranians gather on 35th Anniversary of Islamic Revolution

THOMAS ERDBRINK

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TEHRAN, Iran - Millions of Iranians participated in government-backed rallies marking the 35th anniversary of the Islamic revolution Tuesday, Iranian state media reported.

At the largest rallies, in the capital, Tehran, the ongoing

the nuclear program, the military option remains on the table.

"We are eager for all options on the table," many of the placards read, cheerfully held up by Iranian families pushing baby strollers while shouting, "Death to America!" Other posters said, "We are ready for the

Sherman said that the Iranian government had started handing out free food, after the United States released \$500 million to Iran as part of a temporary agreement over the country's nuclear program.

Iranian hard-liners reacted angrily, saying the money - which came from Ira-

power a government overseen by Shiite Muslim clerics.

President Hassan Rouhani, a cleric who was elected in June, criticized what he called U.S. threats against Iran but said that, if world powers negotiating with Iran over its nuclear program respected Tehran's

countries that the nuclear talks are a historical test for Europe and America," he said, referring to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany. But like his predecessor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Rouhani warned that threats would cost Iran's counterparts in the nuclear talks dearly.

"If they want to repeat the unpleasant and incorrect methods of the past, they should know that they will act to the detriment of their own nation, region and global welfare and stability," he said.

The rally, a sort of ideological carnival, featured clowns explaining to children the importance of brushing their teeth, reenactments of scenes from the devastating war between Iran and Iraq, and parachutists dropping candy into the crowds.

At one stage, hundreds of people watched Pangool, a famous Iranian children's television puppet character, explain that the children's presence was neutralizing U.S. threats. "They say all options are on the table," the puppet said, "but it is your active presence here in the rally that is our answer to them!" Some children looked puzzled, but the sight of the famous cat was an attraction by itself, one parent said.

In the distance, the Revolutionary Guard's band played songs from the 1979 revolution, as one cleric, Mohammad Moshabarati, 28, marched by, holding a long flagpole carrying an Islamic flag. □



An Iranian woman raises a poster of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during a rally to mark the 35th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, in Tehran, Iran, Feb. 11, 2014. Millions of Iranians participated in the government-backed rallies, Iranian state media reported, focusing on the ongoing nuclear talks between Iran and world powers while celebrating a victory that brought government power to Shiite Muslim clerics.

(Morteza Nikoubazl/The New York Times)

ing nuclear talks between Iran and world powers, including the United States, dominated the event, which is traditionally organized by Iran's hard-line factions.

Posters and placards were distributed bearing slogans that referred to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's recent remarks that, despite the discussions over

great battle."

Wendy R. Sherman, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, was singled out during the rallies. Some of the participants shouted, "Death to Sherman!" the semiofficial Iranian Student News Agency reported.

Testifying before the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee a week ago,

nian accounts frozen under sanctions - had been seized by the United States and that Iran had long ago paid for the free food.

Some protesters also called for the deaths of President Barack Obama and Kerry. On Feb. 11, 1979, Iranian revolutionaries declared victory over the regime of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi and brought to

"rights," they would receive "a positive and appropriate answer" from Iran. "Iran is determined to hold fair and constructive talks based on international law. We hope that we will see the same kind of will from the opposite side during the talks that will begin within days," Rouhani said in a speech on state radio. "I am frankly telling P5+1

Volunteers smuggle Sochi dogs out of town

NATALIYA VASILYEVA

Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Alexei stops in his tracks as he

sees a half-breed Labrador snooping around at a cafe's back door.

The dog comes obediently on his whistle. Alexei strokes it and in one swift movement takes it in his arms like a newborn baby.

Rushing past surprised passers-by, Alexei carries the equally-surprised dog to his car parked around the corner and places it gently on the back seat.

Alexei is one of a dozen people in the emerging movement of animal activists in Sochi alarmed by reports that the city has contracted the killing of thousands of stray dogs before and during the Olympic Games.

Activists have been picking up dogs from the streets and putting them up at their homes or in temporary shelters before finding an owner elsewhere.

Alexei spoke on condition his full name was not used because he feared repercussions from his employers.

Stray dogs are a common sight on the streets of Russian cities, but with massive construction in the area the street dog population in Sochi and the Olympic park has soared. Useful as noisy, guard dogs, workers feed them to keep them nearby and protect buildings. The dogs — friendly rather than feral — soon lose their value and become strays.

Tonight, a few dogs will be taken on their way to a new life.

Alexei's wife Dina Fillipova has spotted a stray in the central Sochi neighborhood of Svetlana. Once Alexei has picked up the Labrador, the couple heads for two safe houses. One, in a central neighborhood, is lined with palm trees.

The other is at the top of a windy pot-holed road with overgrown gardens. Four helpless puppies wait to be collected at one and a stubborn stray at the other. "I like dogs but that's not the point," Fillipova says. "You know, even if you don't like

children and don't want to have one, when you see a baby lying on the street bleeding or find out about maniacs hunting for children, you would want to do something to help."

Dina and Alexei park in a back alley in the Sochi suburb of Dagomys well past midnight, waiting for

the check-point is the closest Igor Airapetian, a softly-spoken retired businessman, can get to Sochi in his SUV with Moscow number plates.

It's three in the morning and the dog activists pull up at a deserted plaza in the town of Tuapse. A smiling Airapetian shakes the

and tails inside. One of the five dogs she has brought is a Rottweiler.

"People buy bred dogs, play with them and then throw them away," Yulia Krasova, a 30-year-old travel agent, explains.

Sochi is flooded with stray dogs but activists also lament the attitudes of Rus-



Animal activist Igor Airapetian carries a stray dog to his car brought out of Sochi by fellow activist at a rendezvous point 120 kilometers away from the Olympic area in the early morning hours of Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, in Tuapse, Russia.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)



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a middle-man. A Soviet-designed SUV pulls up. The driver shakes Alexei's hand, and the men hurry to open the trunks. The adult dogs — and a carrier with the puppies — are put into the SUV, much to the amazement of two late night drinkers stumbling by.

"They must be expensive," one man says, nodding towards the unwanted mongrels. Alexei's long night is over and he can return home.

The mission to be accomplished now is 120 kilometers (75 miles) away along the Black Sea coast.

The dog-laden car travels 100 kilometers on a windy road past round-the-clock stalls selling honey, jam and nuts to reach a checkpoint where trucks and cars line up to get into the Sochi area.

This is the Games' ring of steel which is supposed to keep Sochi terrorism-free, allowing in only cars with local number plates or with Olympic accreditation.

A dozen kilometers before

driver's hand. Airapetian's friend, Zamir Aslanov, who has been driving the arduous 1,600 kms (1,000 miles) from Moscow, is dizzy with exhaustion. It will now be Airapetian's turn to drive back.

"It was just a coincidence," Airapetian says when asked why he decided to help taking out dogs from Sochi.

"I saw that post (in the social media) and decided to help."

Airapetian unloads the back of his car, choked full with dog food and medicines. It's not only the handover of dogs, but an exchange of goods. Airapetian is elated: "My beauties!"

Asked about the future of the dogs, Airapetian comes up with a long list and details of breeders and ordinary people who will be taking the dogs.

The silence in the plaza is broken by the arrival of a three-door red car.

A petite blonde gets out of her car. It's all wet noses

sians who tend to treat dogs as a toy that can be easily discarded.

"Dogs live on construction sites, workers feed them, give them names," Fillipova says. "Once the construction is over the dogs are left behind."

Two more cars arrive at the plaza at four in the morning. Another woman in a down jacket comes out. Fifteen or so dogs will head back towards Moscow, some of them to be dropped off with new owners on the way.

Igor hopes that the international media attention that Sochi's strays have received could prompt Russian officials across the country to end the cruel treatment of dogs.

Sochi city hall, when asked for comment on dog killings, responded by posting a press release announcing the opening of a dog pound.

"I hope what we've seen here is not going to happen again," Airapetian says. □



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2022 World Cup leaders outline rights of workers

ROB HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

(AP) Qatar sought to allay widespread concerns about conditions for migrant workers on World Cup building projects by detailing on Tuesday how their rights must be protected by contractors. Rights group Amnesty International called the charter a "positive, if partial" step, but the International Trade Union Confederation called it a "sham," and complained that 2022 World Cup leaders have not demanded changes in Qatar's labor laws despite mounting criticism from rights groups.

FIFA, which ordered the report, said the charter showed "concrete steps" were being taken to accelerate the introduction of "adequate uniform" conditions for workers building venues for the Middle East's first World Cup.

Qatar's 50-page document fleshes out the basic welfare obligations that were published last year. Within it are the requirements for employment contracts, payment, medical care and living conditions, including the meals and bedrooms that must be provided. Employers must also allow workers to retain their passports and cover the cost of their costs to return home at the end of their contract.

"In our experience en-

forcement (of the standards) is almost always the stumbling block," Amnesty researcher James Lynch said in a statement.

Lynch stressed that only a "relatively small proportion" of workers are covered by the charter. Only companies building World Cup venues must abide by it, rather than those with government contracts for the wider infrastructure projects that are required to handle an influx of players, fans and media.

Just 38 construction workers are currently employed by World Cup organizers, building the Al Wakrah Stadium south of the capital Doha. The labor force will rapidly rise as a dozen stadiums and training camps for the 32 competing teams are built from scratch or renovated.

The International Trade Union Confederation is troubled by the charter's failure to address the sweltering summer working conditions when temperatures can hit 50 degrees (120F). "It promises health and safety but provides no credible enforcement," ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow said. "It promises employment standards but gives migrant workers no rights to collectively bargain or join a trade union. It promises equality but does not provide a guarantee of a minimum wage." □

Algeria: Plane crash kills 77 but 1 man survives

AOMAR
PAUL SCHEMM
Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — An Algerian military transport plane slammed into a mountain Tuesday in the country's rugged eastern region, killing 77 people and leaving just one survivor, the country's defense ministry said.

Air traffic controllers lost radio and radar contact with the U.S.-built C-130 Hercules just before noon and dispatched helicopters to try to find it. The plane was discovered in pieces on Mount Fortas near the town of Ain Kercha, 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Constantine, the main city in eastern Algeria.

The plane had taken off from the southern Saharan city of Tamanrasset, which has a massive military presence due to its proximity to the country's unstable southern borders, and was heading to Constantine. It carried 74 passengers and four crew members, the military said in the statement, blaming poor weather for the crash.

Earlier in the day, Algerian government officials and Algerian state media had reported that the plane had 99 passengers, making for a much higher death toll.

The lone survivor — a soldier — suffered head injuries and was treated at a nearby military facility before being flown to the military

hospital in Algiers, a retired intelligence officer told The Associated Press. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press. Civil defense officials at the snowy crash site said the plane broke into three parts and women and children were among the dead. Military transports in Algeria routinely carry not only sol-

companies by snow in the region were behind the crash," the defense ministry said.

The presidency announced a three-day period of mourning, calling the soldiers who had died "martyrs for the country."

Lockheed Martin's hulking turboprop C-130 Hercules transport, born out of the experiences of the 1950-53



People watch rescue workers working at the wreckage of an Algerian military transport aircraft after it slammed into a mountain in the country's rugged eastern region, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014. A civil defense official said 102 people on board were killed but one person managed to survive. The U.S.-built C-130 Hercules transport crashed about noon near the town of Ain Kercha, 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Constantine, the main city in eastern Algeria. (AP Photo/ Mohamed Ali)

diers but military families visiting army bases and sometimes even other civilians, if space is available.

Commander Farid Nechad, who was coordinating recovery efforts, told the AP that 55 bodies had been recovered so far but conditions at the crash site were difficult.

"Unfavorable weather conditions and storms ac-

Korean War, has been used by air forces all over the world to help fight wars or save lives in humanitarian situations.

Lockheed Martin Corp. confirmed that it sold C-130s to Algeria from 1981 to 1990 and said if Algerian authorities asked, the company would work with them to investigate Tuesday's crash. □

Italy, US crack down on mafia drug smuggling

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — U.S. and Italian authorities said Tuesday they had broken up a new heroin-and cocaine-trafficking ring coordinated by Italy's powerful 'ndrangheta organized crime syndicate and New York City's Gambino crime family. Seventeen people were arrested in Italy and another seven in New York, officials said.

The investigation underscored how 'ndrangheta is spreading its operations beyond Italy's borders as it consolidates its position as one of the world's most powerful drug traffickers, officials said. It also laid bare how the 'ndrangheta, based in the southern region of Calabria, is en-



US Attorney Marshall Miller, second from right, speaks during a joint Italian-U.S. authorities' press conference on an anti-Mafia blitz with numerous arrests reported on both sides of the Atlantic, at Rome's National Anti-Mafia headquarters, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

croaching on territory once occupied by the Sicilian-based Cosa Nostra, since the Gambinos were the Sicilian Mafia's U.S. branch. Italian anti-Mafia police said the "New Bridge" operation targeted a new cocaine trafficking route from South America to the southern Italian port of Gioia Tauro that united the Gambinos with the 'ndrangheta. In exchange, the Italians were to provide heroin to the American market.

The aim was to "build a bridge of criminality and corruption to stretch from South America to Italy and back to New York," said Marshall Miller, a top prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's office in Brooklyn.

Using wiretaps and an undercover agent named "Jimmy" who infiltrated the Brooklyn-based mob, officials said they thwarted the delivery to Italy of some 500 kilograms of pure cocaine that was to have been hidden in shipments of canned

coconuts and pineapples being shipped from Guyana to Gioia Tauro.

"The 'ndrangheta can and has to be considered one of the most powerful organizations in the world for handling of international drug-trafficking," said Raffaele Grassi, head of the Italian police's central operative service unit. "The 'ndrangheta has left its territory of origin: beyond occupying areas of our country and infiltrating itself in northern Italy, the 'ndrangheta is looking for criminals beyond the borders, invading new markets to make profit."

FBI agents worked alongside Italian police in Italy and vice versa, and Miller and other officials from the U.S. Attorney's office in Brooklyn were on hand in Rome for the press conference announcing the arrests. The Italian suspects are accused of mafia association and drug trafficking, among other charges. □

Portugal: full market return near

BARRY HATTON
Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Bailed-out Portugal took a big step toward gaining full access to credit markets by raising 3 billion euros (\$4 billion) from a sale of 10-year bonds Tuesday.

The bonds are considered a benchmark of market faith, and Portugal's ability to tap investors for cash over a long-term horizon is a sign that confidence in the country's economic future is returning.

Portugal, one of 18 European Union countries using the euro currency, needed a 78-billion-euro rescue in 2011 to avoid bankruptcy as jittery investors refrained from lending it money. The bailout money runs out in June, and the government wants to re-establish market access before then.

The 10-year bond sale was the first of its kind since the bailout — Portugal has raised money through shorter-dated offerings over the past few years. The government

debt agency said it paid an affordable interest rate of 5.11 percent, with demand exceeding threefold the amount on offer. When Portugal was effectively locked out of bond markets, investors were pricing in rates above 7 percent or so.

Portugal isn't the only bailed-out eurozone country that appears to be throwing off the shackles. Ireland exited its bailout program at the end of last year as the financial gloom over debt-heavy Europe has gradually lifted. Cash-rich investors, meanwhile, are looking for opportunities for healthy returns.

"The recent fall in interest rates and risk perception (on Portuguese debt) brought an opening that the government has used to its advantage," said Filipe Silva, debt manager of Lisbon-based financial group Banco Carregosa. "On the other hand, investors were drawn by the very attractive profits to be made." □







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2014 Motorcycle Cruise roars through Aruba!



- Exclusive to Aruba Today.

ORANJESTAD - Steve Wal-lach, President of ETA Mo-torcycle Cruises was the first one off the ship called "Ce-lebrity Equinox" when it ar-rived early Tuesday morning in Aruba. This cruise started on February 8th in Ft. Lau-derdale with as first stop Aru-ba, continuing to Curacao, Grenada, Barbados, St. Lu-cia, Antigua, St. Maarten, St. Thomas and back to Ft. Lau-derdale where they will ar-rive back on February 22nd. For the first time ever Aru-ba hosted this Motorcycle Cruise event with 22 bikes getting off the ship to enjoy the beautiful scenery of our island. The 22 bikes that the cruise ship brought over ex-isted out of: 15 Harley's, two BMW's, one Suzuki, three Yamaha's and a Triumph.

Mr. Tony Bosch took the lead and together with over 150 local Harley Da-vidson's, quads, trikes and other bikes. The trip begun after an official welcome speech by our Minister of Tourism": Mr. Otmar Odu-ber and the first stop was a local gas station for our guests to fill up their tanks, because it would be a day to remember. The road to Baby beach was the scenic

one, showing of our beauti-ful island including the newly renovated Main Street. To-wards Sta. Cruz, with goats alongside the road, beauti-ful Cunucu houses, cactus and Divi trees our guests got to see so much more than regular highways. One of

dressed in bright colored "I love Aruba" shirts, "Area 297" shirts and "dushi yui" shirts. All locally made. Many different bikers groups were participating in the ride, some that were seen were: HOG, Cascabel, Camacu-ri, Reapersz, Sinnerz, Babes



the most beautiful places we passed was the French-man Pass which was over-grown with trees touching each other, which was kind of like going thru a tunnel. One of the highlights for the people from Canada was riding along the ocean in the Spanish Lagoon area and feeling the wind touch their skin.

Our local riders were of all ages and were mainly

on bikes, TTT Riders, All out, Spike Rebels and the Dutch group "Bende van zes". It was a well organized event by "Nos cu Nos" and I am sure that we will see a lot more of our friends from this cruise. Some of the la-dies from the group already asked us where would be a good place to stay when they come back for a longer vacation.....

The cruise ship group who

came all the way from: Ten-nessee, Michigan, Texas Georgia Florida and Ontario Canada had a blast. Espe-cially Wayne Chadwick and Keith Leonard, both from Texas enjoyed the stop at Baby beach, where the sand is always super white and the ocean seven differ-ent shades of blue.

We would like to thank the local motorcycle police for guiding us thru traffic and stopped all cars from enter-ing the long, long parade of bikes covering the entire island. Along the road peo-ple there were waving, tak-ing pictures and of course filming with their cell phones. A bike event like this you don't see every day! And I am sure you will see a lot of it on Facebook and Youtube. Kids loved it and yelled out: "COOL". And cool the ride was indeed, but of course in the hot and steaming sun a few stops for refreshments were welcome. Lunch, local food, was served at the Ca-sibari Rock formation where many pictures were taken of both the huge ages old

rocks and of all the beauti-ful bikes lined up along the fence. The trip continued to the other site of the island: the Chapel of Alto Vista, pic-ture time at the famous light house, passing the beautiful Eagle Beaches and ended up at the Local Harley Deal-er: Big Twin. After that, un-fortunately the bikes had to be returned to the ship in or-der to continue their voyage to our sister island Curacao. Next year the ETA Motor-cycle Cruise will be back on our "one happy island" from March 15-29th!



Bugaloe presents a Special Valentines Menu on Friday the 14th!



Beauty On The Beach

Emily Graham

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your special person. In honor of this day Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill will have a Valentine theme and to let your feelings flow and set the mood, live music will be playing. The price of this three course dinner is \$125 per couple and it includes one bottle of champagne. So, do you want to create the perfect romantic night out? Then Bugaloe Beach Bar and Grill will be the perfect location for you on Valentine's Day. Contact Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill to make your reservation and have the romantic evening of a life time: call 297-586-2233, or visit: www.bugaloe.com. □

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PALM BEACH - Choosing a restaurant for a romantic Valentine's Day dinner that won't break the bank is now easy: MooMba Beach offers a hard-to-beat, 5-course menu deal for friends, lovers and anybody in a Valentine mood. The Valentine's treat costs just \$ 65.—per couple, complete with a champagne sorbet. Sitting with your bare feet in the white sand and the sound of the waves in the background comes free of charge.



The open-air oceanfront restaurant has come up with a wonderful dinner, which starts off with a grilled zucchini with home-made pesto and fresh mozzarella

cheese and thinly sliced prosciutto ham served with roasted tomatoes and pine nuts. The entrée is a surf and turf consisting of hanger steak, jumbo shrimp and catch of the day with a side order. And because it's Valentine's

chocolate mousse and dark chocolate ice cream. If that won't sweeten you up....!

This 5-course San Valentino menu for two at MooMba Beach is a treat: treat yourself and your loved one to it! MooMba Beach can be



Day, diners get two, yes two!, deserts: marinated strawberries with a waffle and vanilla ice cream and a Chocolate Delight: white

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White falls to the I-Pod in Olympic stunner

EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia (AP) — Maybe it was all too much. Or maybe just one of those bad nights. That debate will last a long time.

Shaun White stood at the top of the Olympic halfpipe Tuesday night, hunched over, hands resting above his knees. He high-fived his coach, clapped his hands, then jumped in for a ride that would decide if all the calculated choices he had made over a winter full of injuries, distractions and angst would pay off. One jump, 15 feet above the pipe, was perfect. The second one looked good, too.

Then, the trick they call the "Yolo" — the one a rival invented but White had turned into his own.

His snowboard skittered across the halfpipe on the landing. White finished the run with a flourish and raised his index finger, trying to woo the judges who know, as well as anyone, what he's done for his sport.

No sale. No medal, either. He finished fourth.

The world's best-known, most-successful and best-marketed snowboarder lost to a man they call the



Shaun White of the United States hits the edge of the half pipe during the men's snowboard halfpipe final at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park, at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. **Associated Press**

"I-Pod," and now, he may never hear the end of it.

"I would definitely say that tonight was just one of those nights," White said after falling to Iouri Podladtchikov, the 25-year-old Russian-born inventor of the 'Yolo.' "The tricks I learned getting ready for the competition will carry on for a couple years in this sport. It's a bummer. I had one of those nights."

The Japanese pair of 15-year-old Ayumu Hirano and 18-year-old Taku Hiraoka won silver and bronze, and the Americans were shut out on the halfpipe for the first time since the sport was introduced to the Olympics in 1998.

Almost unthinkable, especially since White joined the mix and won the first of his two gold medals in 2006. He wanted to win two this year — one in halfpipe and one in the newly introduced sport of slopestyle — but ended up with none. "In hindsight, maybe it wasn't the best move, but he's ambitious," said Jake Burton, the snowboarding guru and one of White's very first sponsors. "That's him. You wouldn't want to see him trade that in for anything."

Continued on Page 20

Ivanovic advances to 2nd round in Qatar Open

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Ninth-seeded Ana Ivanovic of Serbia advanced to the second round of the Qatar Open on Tuesday after Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova retired from their match with a right knee injury.

Ivanovic was leading 7-5, 1-0 when Hantuchova withdrew after falling 0-40 behind in the second game.

The match started slowly for Ivanovic, who surrendered her first two serves



as Hantuchova took a 5-3 lead. But Ivanovic won the next four games to secure the set, winning the ninth game at love with her final three serves being aces.

"She started really well, and I managed to get back into the set and break her back," Ivanovic said. "I

Ana Ivanovic of Serbia returns the ball to Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia during the second day of the WTA Qatar Ladies Open in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday Feb. 11, 2014. Associated Press

played some really good tennis towards the end of that first set and then in the second."

Wildcard entrant Alisa Kleybanova of Russia also advanced after her opponent retired.

At 5-5 in the first set, 10th-seeded Dominika Cibulkova of Slovak Republic, the recent Australian Open finalist, retired from the match with a gastrointestinal illness.

"I was really looking for-

ward to playing this week in Doha," said Cibulkova, who was making her first tournament appearance since becoming the first Slovakian to reach a Grand Slam final.

"Unfortunately I became very sick today and suddenly did not feel well. I wanted to give it a try today and I did everything I could to try to play, but I could not continue."

Continued on Page 21

Finally! Hamlin gives U.S. 1st luge singles medal

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia (AP) — It happens all the time to Ron and Eileen Hamlin. They go shopping someplace around their home, pull out a credit card and get asked the same question as soon as somebody sees their name. "Do you know Erin Hamlin?" Those questions won't go away anytime soon. Not now. Not after what the pride of Remsen, N.Y. — a little town with no stop lights and where everybody knows everybody else — did Tuesday night. Hamlin won the bronze medal in women's luge at the Sochi Olympics, becoming the first USA Luge athlete to ever medal in a singles event at the games. The fact she was beaten by two Germans almost seemed irrelevant. For Hamlin, for her family and for USA Luge, this was a victory. Her mother insisted it was more significant than her win in the 2009 world championships.

"For her, yes, it is," Eileen Hamlin said.

Bronze better than gold? In this case, that's probably right, given what this one might mean for years to come.

"It's nice to break the streak," said Tony Ben-shoof, one of three U.S. lugers to finish fourth in a previous Olympics. "I've always known that Erin could get on the podium. It just hadn't happened yet."

"It's great for the organization," he said. "It's great for her. ... She's kind of a master of high-pressure races. She's a good closer. After the third run I knew barring some major catastrophe she had it in the bag."

When Hamlin won the world title five years ago, the crowning achievement was that she had an ice cream sundae named in her honor. It's still a big seller in Remsen, where she ran track and played soccer and grew up being "a wimp," she said, whenever her parents wanted her to try something adventurous

or daring.

Nowadays, she jumps on a sled and goes 85 mph down a hill. Wimpy, no more.

"It's going to take a little while to sink in," Hamlin said. "I was the first American woman to win at worlds, so to be able to do this, I'm hopefully paving the way for future generations of female lugers in the U.S."

Germany's Natalie Geisenberger won the race in dominant style, posting a four-run time of 3 minutes, 19.768 seconds. Tatjana Huefner was second, 1.139 seconds off the pace. Hamlin was another 0.236 seconds back.

"She deserves this," U.S. teammate Summer Britcher said. "Oh, she so deserves this."

Plenty of people stopped to take notice in central New York on Tuesday morning. "Go Erin" banners were seen in Remsen and at least two other neighboring towns. At least 100 kids — that's roughly half the school — crammed into the library to watch the live feed of her race.

At the Saranac Brewery in nearby Utica, beers were flowing in her honor by 9:30 a.m. at a watch party.

"Our area is so unique," said Meghan Fraser, the brewery's marketing and public relations coordinator. "Not a lot of people know about us and when they do come here, they have a wonderful experience and know it's a great place to live. We don't get a lot of praise and Erin has brought so much light to our community. She's a special part of this community and gives people a reason to know who we are and what we're all about." Hamlin spent more than half her life chasing this moment. At 27, another Olympics isn't guaranteed. But now she's a world champion and Olympic medalist, leaving no hole on her resume.

She was 12th at the Turin Games in 2006, then 16th in 2010, a year after winning

the world title and thinking she was primed for an Olympic breakthrough. When that race four years ago was over, Hamlin turned to her mother and let her know Sochi was her new goal.

"I don't want to go out like this," Hamlin said then.

The payoff was bronze, and for America's first luge medalist, that was as good as gold. □

LUGE SURPRISE: Erin Hamlin of the United States greets her coach after finishing her final run to win the bronze medal during the women's singles luge competition at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

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There's more than one trendsetter in snowboarding, more than one person who likes to "progress the sport," as they say on the halfpipe. The effervescent Podladtchikov, who now lives in and competes for Switzerland, thought up the Yolo trick first and landed it first. White watched the replay of I-Pod doing it last March in an event in Europe and immediately saw what he needed to do. Very quickly, he did it better than Podladtchikov and landed it twice in key events leading up to the Olympics. I-Pod tried it three times at the Winter X Games last month

and fell all three times. "Practice," he called it. Those falls, and a hundred other reasons, are why White came into these games the heavy favorite to become only the seventh person to win three straight Olympic golds in an individual winter event. "I saw videos of Shaun doing it really well," Podladtchikov said. "I got bummed. I said, 'Damn, that's my trick and he's doing it better than me. I guess I was doing it a little better tonight.'" The Yolo — You Only Live Once — includes a total of 1440 degrees of spin. It's two head-over-heels flips and two 360-degree turns. Four years ago, it was unthinkable, but not anymore. Well, maybe not so easy on this halfpipe.

It was sloppy, slushy and full of problems all week. Virtually nobody got a decent practice session in. Thanks to a trip down the mountain from the crew that grooms the Alpine course, conditions improved. One of the supposed flaws of the pipe — too vertical on the sides — helped Podladtchikov keep the speed he needed to do the Yolo. He landed it, and even though he only threw five tricks, when most riders were trying six, the judges liked what they saw. As did Podladtchikov, who spiked his snowboard into the ground and threw his goggles into the crowd. He scored a 94.75. "He's incredible," American Danny Davis, the



Switzerland's Iouri Podladtchikov competes in the men's snowboard halfpipe final at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park, at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Podladtchikov won the gold medal.

Associated Press

10th-place finisher. "That run on that halfpipe. Wow." White had come to Russia after a wild winter he spent trying to qualify in two events. He hurt his ankle and shoulder on the way, and changed his schedule on the fly and frequently. The biggest switch-up came when he pulled out of the Olympics' inaugural slopestyle contest the day before qualifiers, saying he didn't want to risk injury there for his historic quest on the halfpipe. And so, the stakes were set. Riders all get two chances, and their best score counts. On White's first run, his attempt at the Yolo ended with a fall that left him sliding down the halfpipe on his backside. Further down the pipe, he tried to finish with another of his double-cork tricks. His board slammed and bent on the lip of the pipe, followed by an awkward and painful fall onto his rear. He was in 11th place after one round. I-Pod's second run put

huge pressure on White. His final runs at the last two Olympics have been nothing more than stress-free victory rides. Away he went. On the Yolo, he tucked his hands together to generate torque, then waved one like a cowboy riding a bucking bronco. The form looked good during his three seconds in the air. The landing ended his chances, and whatever small chance he had of winning a wrong-colored medal were wiped away when his knees buckled and nearly hit the snow on the final jump. When the fourth-place score, a 90.25, came up, he broke into a knowing smile. He gave Podladtchikov a big hug and fatherly mussed his hair. He told him he was happy for him. But the champion had only himself to blame. "I had a specific run I wanted to land and I didn't put it down," White said. "It's one of the most frustrating things for me. If I land my run and I'm beaten, I'm OK with that. I didn't get that chance tonight, and it happens." □

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76ers trying to regroup from lopsided losses

ANTONIO GONZALEZ

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— Nobody expected much from the Philadelphia 76ers this season. Most predicted Philadelphia would finish near the bottom of the NBA standings, even in the underachieving Eastern Conference.

Suddenly, stunningly, the Sixers are somehow playing even worse than that.

While most of the U.S. was sleeping, Philadelphia lost by a combined 88 points on consecutive nights in California. The end of this rebuilding project for a team with a 15-38 record has never seemed so far away. "It's hard for everybody," Sixers coach Brett Brown said. "The reality of it is they have put in so much time and despite all the turmoil, it's a group that's been together, stayed together. At times, you look up and you have to keep going and keep on playing with some level of dignity, and it's hard doing that."

After losing 123-78 to the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday in a game it trailed by 56 points in the third quarter, Philadelphia be-

lieved it couldn't get much worse.

It almost did.

Marreese Speights scored a career-high 32 points to hand his former team a near-record setback, leading the Golden State Warriors past the woeful 76ers 123-80 on Monday.

By the time reporters were allowed in the visiting locker room at Oracle Arena, most of the 76ers already had cleared out.

The television in the center of the room was turned off. There were no box scores from the game on players' chairs — which is typical after most NBA games — and there were no smiles to be had by anybody.

"Not going to turn on TV or read the papers," forward Evan Turner said.

The Sixers started 3-0 this season — including a win over the two-time defending champion Miami Heat on opening night — that had some fans believing they could be far better than expected. The only real bright spot since has been the emergence of Michael Carter-Williams, who is making a strong case for NBA rookie of the



Golden State Warriors' David Lee (10) grabs a rebound next to Philadelphia 76ers' Thaddeus Young (21) and teammate Draymond Green, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

year. Any good vibes going were washed away in Philadelphia's seventh straight loss. The Sixers nearly matched the NBA mark

for the largest total margin of defeat in consecutive games. The Detroit Pistons lost by 95 points combined in back-to-back games in November 1966, according to STATS. "There is a respect for the game," Brown said. "There is a pride for doing our jobs and an appreciation for the time we have spent together, which has been quality time, of them on the floor and in video rooms and individual instruction and recovery and all of that. The situation is real in regards to spending working time together, and I think, how do you keep (spirits) up? Who knows?"

No other team in NBA history has lost two straight games by at least 40 points each. Now Philadelphia has done it twice.

The 76ers lost back-to-

back games in April 1994 by a combined 93 points, and they're struggling to explain — and correct — what has gone so wrong during this latest span.

"You just look up at the scoreboard and see a lot of points. I really don't know," Turner said.

Philadelphia finishes a three-game road trip on Wednesday at Utah before heading into an All-Star break that can't come soon enough.

"Don't anybody feel sorry for us," Brown said. "We will wake up and be (OK) tomorrow."

In other NBA games it was Boston 102, Milwaukee 86; Toronto 108, New Orleans 101; Indiana 119, Denver 80; Houston 107, Minnesota 89; and Detroit 109, San Antonio 100. □

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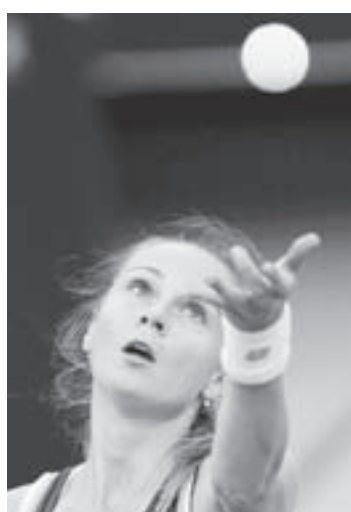
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Karin Knapp, who led Italy to a 3-1 Fed Cup victory over the United States in Cleveland at the weekend, was told she had to be in Doha to play a first round match on Tuesday. Knapp started her journey early Monday morning and after going from Cleveland to Washington DC, and then to Dubai, she landed in Doha on Tuesday in time to play her afternoon match.

Knapp played impressive tennis to defeat Caroline Garcia of France 6-4, 6-1 straight off the plane.

Four players who chose to skip playing the Fed Cup tie between the U.S. and Italy in order to get to Doha early — Sloane Stephens, Francesca Schiavone, Roberta Vinci and Flavia Pennetta — have all lost their first round matches.

Elsewhere, American Bethanie Mattek-Sands upset 15th-seeded Eugenie Bouchard of Canada, a recent Australian Open semifinalist, 7-5, 6-1. □



Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia serves the ball to Francesca Schiavone of Italy during the second day of the WTA Qatar Ladies Open in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014. Associated Press



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

After the New Year holidays have faded and deep into the winter season, perhaps, looking for a way to light a warm fire comes a holiday dedicated to love. But, did you know that Valentine's Day isn't just an innocent holiday developed to help business sell flowers, chocolates or sexy lingerie? The true origin of Valentine's Day has its roots in the pagan worship of Baal, the sun god. It's also no surprise that here in Aruba, along with countries around the world; we are also celebrating another holiday, Carnival. With Carnival's sexy costumes and behavior, it's no surprise that Valentine's Day and Carnival coincide. In ancient Babylon Baal worship included participation in sacred sexual orgies. Similarly, historical records show early carnival festivals at the same time of year gave way to free flowing wine and all sorts of unrestrained self-indulgent sexual behavior. Baal was often associated with the goddess Astoreth; the goddess of sexual love, motherhood and fertility. Prostitution as a religious rite in the service of this goddess is widely confirmed by cultural anthropologists. Today's Carnival Queen, symbolically represents our Goddess of Love.

The worship of Baal transformed to other cultures; or was the custom there already? To the Greeks he was Eros, meaning sexual desire; to the Romans he was Cupid, meaning desire. Both Greeks and Romans portrayed Eros/Cupid as a winged boy armed with bows and arrows. The Roman legend of Cupid and Psyche is the best-known story about this armed, unscrupulous boy. Pierced in your heart with Cupid's arrow will make you fall in love with whom you are with at the time. Valentine's Day gifts are offerings to stimulate magic to get Cupid to shoot his arrow into the heart of the person you desire.

As everyone knows, love is supposed to conquer all. After much emotional drama, reflected in many romance novels, movies, and love songs; Cupid finally marries Psyche, who had been wandering the earth, looking for Cupid in vain. Like any modern retelling, they lived happily ever after, giving birth to a daughter whose name was Pleasure; of course.

What about love at first sight? This can be easily explained as having your heart pierced by Cupid's arrow. Unfortunately, Cupid is an armed, unscrupulous boy, who will shoot the arrow again through your adolescent love attitude. This helps explain why more than three-quarters of our marriages end in divorce.

Today what is hoped for is that Valen-

tine's Day can be the perfect opportunity to ignite the romance in your love relationship. It's a great time for men to step outside our usual routine and develop a little passion. With a little planning, creativity, and money, merchandisers are hoping that you want to light a fire. Besides the chocolate & flowers, do you know there are natural supplements that can help juice up the libido?

Some people hate Valentine's Day. These people believe that unless you are in a happy relationship it's no fun. They might be missing the main point. The target for Cupid's arrows should be on how we love. You see, the real Cupid is yourself.

The first arrow we shoot should be the arrow of truth. Truth of self is what we think about ourselves, what we desire and how we act in our relationships. Why are you engaging in sex? Are you there to gain another "conquest" or as a physical expression to a person you enjoy being with? The four reasons relationships fail are: criticism, contempt, defensiveness and shutting down and refusing to respond. I, like 81% of men am guilty at times of shutting down emotionally with my spouse.

The second arrow should be for transformation. New behavior that helps our relationships endure includes the following three points. Making time for conversations where you find out what your part-

ner has experienced lately. Express fondness, appreciation, and admiration for your partner often. Acknowledge your partners interests, even in small moments. Remember, failing points are all about "me" while loving points are all about "you".

The third arrow is love. Women want the same thing out of relationships as emotionally matured men do; they just go about getting it in different ways. Being mature means being willing to work at you relationships. With maturity we thrive physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We love God, our partner, our families, our friends, our animals and even our enemies. And in our relationships we get friendship, with its implicit values of patience, understanding, compassion, and cooperation, the real reason for Cupid's arrows.

Get The Point! The most beautiful thing in the world cannot be seen, or touched, but is felt in the heart. You never have to take it away from one person to give it to another. There's always more than enough to go around. Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own heart. Are you having some emotional blocks that a greeting card or social networking "accept this gift" isn't enough to get you through? Acupuncture, has some lovely treatments to help open the chakra's or "blocks" helping you find balance and harmony in

yourself, leaving you open for healthy loving relationships. Meanwhile, the right foods and dietary supplements can increase energy and stamina. Take time to say I love you to those that matter to you in the best way you can. Wishing you all love this Valentine's Day!

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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Technology firms urge changes to U.S. spying

STEPHEN BRAUN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A coalition of the leading U.S. technology firms joined an international protest Tuesday against the U.S. government's spying programs, urging more limits on collections of Americans' data and greater oversight and transparency about the secret operations.

Top executives from Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, Facebook, AOL, LinkedIn and Twitter published a joint statement and sent a letter Tuesday to President Barack Obama and members of Congress. The coalition of tech firms, known as Reform Government Surveillance, is urging changes that would include a government agreement not to collect bulk data from Internet communications. Technology companies expressed outrage last year after media accounts based on leaks from former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden disclosed that the U.S. and the United Kingdom intercept massive amounts of meta-data abroad from foreign users and sometimes from Americans. Executives highlighted their concerns during talks with administration officials about the spying programs, but Obama did not commit to curtailing the NSA's sweeps of data from the Internet.

The stance taken by the technology firms provided a public boost to "The Day We Fight Back," a day of protest against the government's spying operations organized by civil liberties and privacy advocates. Activists urged Americans to write and call members of Congress in protest. By late morning, "The Day We Fight

Back" claimed backers had sent 42,000 emails and made nearly 15,000 calls to Congress.

The civil liberties groups, which include the ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Foundation, are trying to mirror the success that

for many of the NSA's current operations.

"Reports about government surveillance have shown there is a real need for greater disclosure and new limits on how governments collect information," said

ity to compel service providers to disclose user data that balance their need for the data in limited circumstances." The group also called for strong "independent" court review that includes "an adversarial process." Obama has



This June 6, 2013, file photo, shows a sign outside the National Security Administration (NSA) campus in Fort Meade, Md.

Associated Press

civil liberties advocates had in 2012, when a similar protest effort helped derail two major anti-piracy bills in Congress. The organizers oppose a bill sponsored by Senate Intelligence Committee chairwoman Sen. Diane Feinstein, a Democrat, that would codify and provide legal underpinnings

Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg in a statement on the Reform Government Surveillance website. "The U.S. government should take this opportunity to lead this reform effort."

The coalition urged the U.S. and other governments to "codify sensible limitations on their abil-

committed to the involvement of a panel of public advocates in some proceedings of the secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court, which oversees electronic spying operations. But under Obama's proposal, the advocates would have limited ability to intervene. □

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Stocks surge after Fed chief reassures

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Reassuring words from the new head of the Federal Reserve sent stocks soaring on Tuesday and gave the market its longest winning streak this year.

The Dow Jones industrial average jumped nearly 200 points after Fed Chair Janet Yellen said she would continue the central bank's market-friendly, low-interest rate policies.

Investors also welcomed news that Congress appeared poised to raise the U.S. borrowing limit without the political drama that happened late last year. That would avert the threat of a disastrous default on the U.S. government's debt.

"Many of the risks everyone had their eyes on for 2014 are quickly being cleared away," said Kristina Hooper, head of U.S. investment strategies for Allianz Global Investors.

On Tuesday, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 192.98 points, or 1.2 percent, to 15,994.77. It was the Dow's third triple-digit advance in four days.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 19.91 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,819.75 and the Nasdaq composite rose 42.87 points, or 1 percent, to 4,191.04. The Nasdaq is now in positive territory for 2014, while the S&P 500 and Dow are down 1.5 percent and 3.5 percent the year, respectively.

Investors had two points of worry resolved this week, analysts said.

Yellen, in her first public

comments since taking over for Ben Bernanke at the Federal Reserve last week, told Congress that she expects a "great deal of continuity" with her predecessor.

Yellen said she supports Bernanke's view that the economy is strengthening enough to withstand a pullback in the Fed's stimu-

ment over raising the nation's borrowing limit, sometimes called the "debt ceiling."

House Speaker John Boehner said Tuesday that he would allow a vote to raise the borrowing limit without any conditions attached. The announcement came a few days after Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said

August 2011 eventually led Standard & Poor's to downgrade the United States' credit rating, which in turn caused the stock market to go through three months of nauseating swings. During the October 2013 debate, the United States came within days of running out of cash, causing investors to flee some parts of the



In this Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014 photo provided by the New York Stock Exchange, members and guests of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China attend the opening bell at the exchange. The ICBC, with headquarters in Beijing, is the largest bank in the world by total assets.

(AP Photo/NYSE, Dario Cantatore)

lus, but that interest rates should stay low to encourage more growth. Last week, the Fed announced it would reduce its bond purchases by \$10 billion to \$65 billion a month.

"She's being well received (by investors)," said Rob Stein, CEO of Astor Investment Management in Chicago.

Politicians also appear to have reached an agree-

ment over raising the federal government would exhaust its ability to borrow money by Feb. 27. Lew urged Congress to pass a bill to raise the limit as soon as possible.

The approaching deadline had been a lingering source of worry for investors, who still bear scars from the last two debt debates.

The political tussle over raising the borrowing limit in

U.S. Treasury market out of fear that the federal government could not pay its debts.

"Investors were preparing for the debt ceiling negotiations to become a disaster," said Brian Reynolds, market strategist with Rosenblatt Securities.

The surge in the last four days has helped the market avoid its first "correction" since 2011. □

Barclays critics lining up after bonuses jump

DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Barclays PLC faced widespread criticism Tuesday after the scandal-plagued bank announced plans to slash up to 12,000 jobs this year while also setting aside more money to pay bonuses. The bonus pool rose by 210 million pounds (\$345 million) in 2013 — a move Chief Executive Antony Jenkins defended despite his mission to improve trust in the institution following a string of scandals including its involvement in the rigging of the Libor interbank lending rate.

"At Barclays, we believe in paying for performance and paying competitively," he said.

Despite his defense, there's been a lot of disquiet to the move by Britain's second biggest bank by assets, even among those who would usually offer their support.

Roger Barker, director of corporate governance at the Institute of Directors, was among those voicing concern over the increase in the bonus pool. In 2013, he noted that the bank paid out 859 million pounds in dividends compared to a staff bonus pool of 2.38 billion pounds.

"It cannot be right in any business for the executive bonus pool to be nearly three times bigger than the total dividend pay out to the company's owners," he said. "The question must be asked — for whom is this institution being run?"

On the other side of the fence, there was a similar outcry. Dominic Hook, national officer for the union, Unite, attacked the bonus increase at a time of job cuts. "The culture change the bank promised will be less than skin-deep if those at the top still Hoover up obscene amounts of money while workers in call centers and branches struggle by on low wages and face the persistent pressure of job insecurity," Hook said. □

Sprint 4Q loss shrinks, helped by device additions

OVERLAND PARK, Kansas

(AP) — Sprint Corp., the third-largest U.S. wireless carrier, said Tuesday its fourth-quarter loss shrunk, helped by the addition of more wireless devices to its network.

Sprint said it added a net 477,000 wireless devices during the quarter, while in the year-ago quarter it lost a net 337,000 devices.

Excluding its Nextel plat-

form, which the company shut off last year, the company added a net 682,000 devices to its Sprint platform, flat with the 683,000 it added in the fourth quarter of 2012.

For the quarter ended Dec. 31, Sprint posted a loss of \$1.04 billion, or 26 cents per share, compared with a loss of \$1.32 billion, or 44 cents per share, in the same quarter the year be-

fore. Revenue rose 2 percent to \$9.14 billion from \$9.01 billion.

Those results beat Wall Street predictions. Analysts, on average, expected a loss of 35 cents per share on \$8.98 billion in revenue. Japanese investment firm SoftBank Corp. acquired a majority stake in Sprint in July.

This was the company's third quarterly report since

the deal closed.

For the full year 2013, Sprint posted a loss of \$1.86 billion, or 54 cents per share, compared with \$4.33 billion, or \$1.44 per share, in 2012.

Revenue fell to \$16.89 billion from \$35.35 billion. Sprint shares rose 54 cents, or 7 percent, to \$8.23 in morning trading Tuesday. Its shares are little changed from a year ago. □

CVS Caremark 4Q profit jumps more than 12 pct

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

CVS Caremark's fourth-quarter earnings climbed more than 12 percent, as improved sales from established locations helped the drugstore operator and pharmacy benefits manager offset fewer customer visits.

The Rhode Island company said Tuesday that pharmacy revenue from established drugstores climbed 6.8 percent in the quarter that ended Dec. 31. That countered a drop of nearly 2 percent from the front end, or the rest of the store. CVS Caremark runs the second-largest U.S. drugstore chain with more than 7,600 locations. It said revenue from that segment climbed more than 5 per-



A CVS pharmacy sign is displayed at a CVS in Providence, R.I. CVS Caremark Corp. reported strong quarterly earnings on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

cent to \$17.2 billion in the quarter. Revenue from stores open at least a year is considered a key indicator of a drugstore chain's financial health. It eliminates the im-

employers, insurers and other customers, and its revenue rose 5.2 percent to \$19.6 billion in the quarter.

Overall, CVS Caremark earned \$1.27 billion, or \$1.05 per share, in the fourth quarter. That compares with earnings of \$1.13 billion, or 90 cents per share, in the final quarter of 2012. Revenue rose nearly 5 percent to \$32.83 billion. Adjusted earnings totaled \$1.12 per share.

The performance topped the average analyst forecast for earnings of \$1.11 per share on about \$32.67 billion in revenue, according to FactSet.

CVS Caremark gained national attention last week after it announced that it would phase out sales of tobacco products at its more than 7,600 stores. The company said then that

the move will cost about \$2 billion in annual revenue and will affect its earnings by between 6 cents and 9 cents per share.

But it also said the move won't affect its 2014 earnings forecast for adjusted earnings of \$4.36 to \$4.50 per share, which the company reaffirmed Tuesday. Analysts forecast, on average, earnings of \$4.46 per share. □

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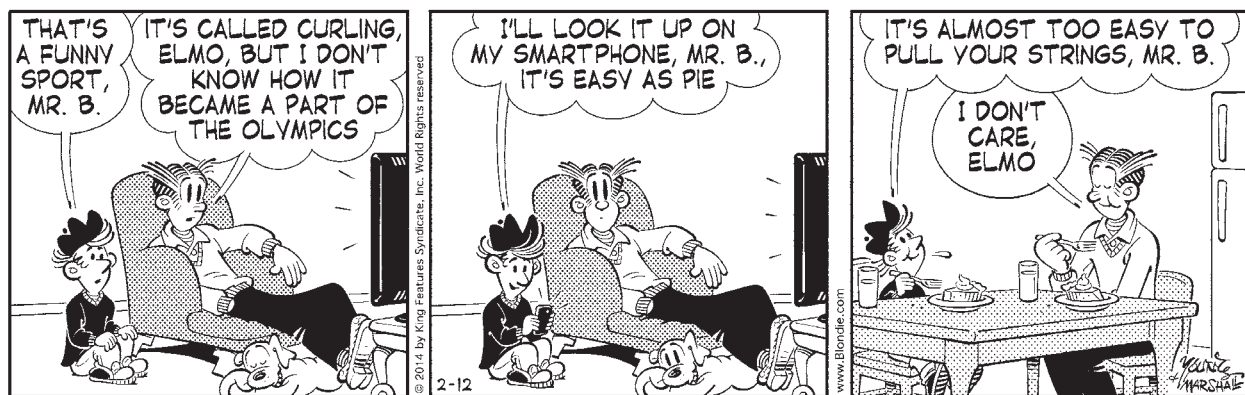
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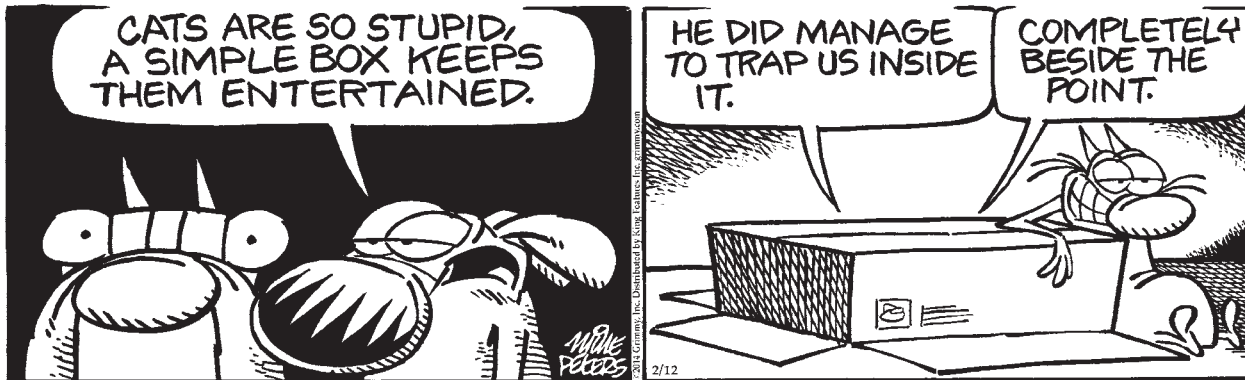
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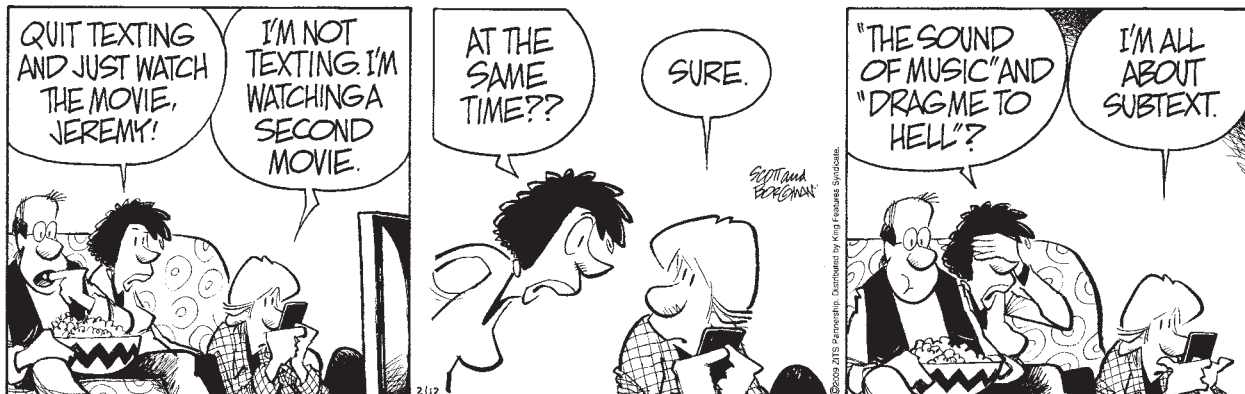
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	2	4			5			
6			4		9			
			8		1		3	
			3		6		5	
		3			7	9	4	1
	7						8	
5							2	
1							6	
9	8	2	5				1	

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/12

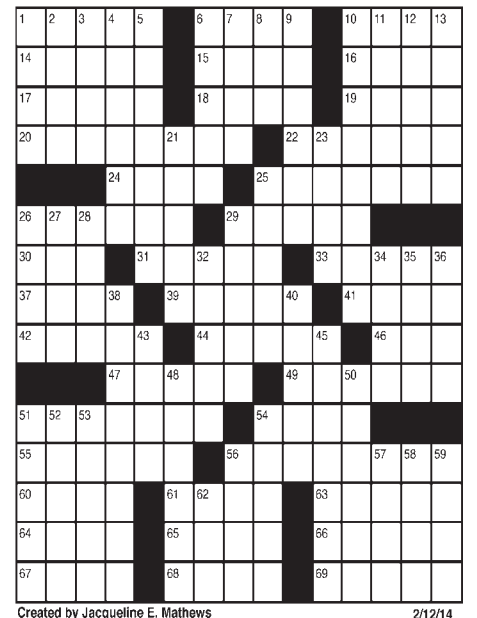
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	8	3	1	9	2	6	7	5
6	9	5	8	7	3	2	4	1
2	7	1	4	5	6	8	9	3
1	4	8	5	6	7	9	3	2
5	2	7	3	1	9	4	6	8
3	6	9	2	8	4	1	5	7
8	3	6	9	2	5	7	1	4
9	5	2	7	4	1	3	8	6
7	1	4	6	3	8	5	2	9

ACROSS

- 1 Suffered from muscle pains
6 Snatch
10 __ up; misbehaves
14 Male bee
15 Bridal veil material
16 Killed
17 "Divine Comedy" poet
18 Afresh
19 Walking stick
20 Using a broom
22 Unwilling
24 Late actor Foxx
25 Cheap knickknack
26 Ukrainian port
29 "Don't __ on me"; words on an old U.S. flag
30 " __ Father, Who art in..."
31 Mid-afternoon
33 Abundant in foliage
37 Cribbage pieces
39 Refueling ship
41 Urgent
42 Seat at a bar
44 Not as new
46 Scouting group
47 Flings
49 Señoritas and mademoiselles
51 Helps
54 Windy day toy
55 Musical piece
56 Located
60 Thick slice
61 Young deer
63 Out of the way
64 Actor James __ Jones
65 Harsh criticism
66 Get stuck
67 Spruce or elm
68 __ up; arranges
69 Look of contempt
- 2 Stick in one's __; annoy
3 Sharpen
4 Goes into
5 Most profound
6 Thyroid or pancreas
7 __ out; peeled
8 Highest card
9 " __ of dog!"; sign on a gate
10 Rose higher
11 Actor __ Gable
12 Not relaxed
13 Sugary
21 Coeur
23 Tiny bottle
25 Covered with pines
26 Fumbler's word
27 Song for two
28 Thus
29 __ a lie; fibs
32 Public uprisings
34 Hearing __; ear devices
35 Set loose
36 Cravings
- 38 Friendly
40 Send in payment
43 Final
45 Ceremonies
48 Provides with personnel
50 Fall or summer
51 Valuable thing
- 52 __-powered; run by the Sun
53 Pitfall
54 Hose problems
56 Slap
57 Wisk rival
58 Margin
59 Antlered animal
62 Tavern drink



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/12/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

PUMA	SCOUR	IDLE
ATOP	HOUSE	LEAN
CARP	AZTEC	LAND
THERAPY	FUMBLES	
ONE	JUROR	
GRAVY	CALTEALS	
NUDE	RAN	MEDDLE
AND	PITIFUL	MAN
TILLED	TED	LIMO
SNEAK	SOB	SITAR
ROTOR	CUB	
SURGEON	DEMERIT	
TRUE	AARON	ROLE
AGES	STUNT	ABLE
REST	TAMES	LESS

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Wide gap between New Delhi, Beijing smog policies

KATY DAIGLE

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Think twice before taking a deep breath in New Delhi, where worsening air pollution has drawn comparisons with Beijing, the world's pollution poster child. On bad days in India's congested capital, the air is so murky it slows traffic to a crawl. Conversations are punctuated with rasping coughs. Weak bands of sunlight filter through a grainy sky. Air monitoring sensors around the landlocked Indian capital have routinely registered levels of small airborne particles at "hazardous" levels in recent months — three to four times New Delhi's own sanctioned limit, rivaling Beijing.

While it's uncertain which city has worse smog — there are various toxins to measure and methods differ, among other things — one thing is clear: China's capital is taking steps to improve air quality but New Delhi hasn't done much in recent years to tackle the problem, largely because there's been little public outcry.

Doctors overwhelmingly agree that more people in New Delhi are getting sick from the air pollution, although there is scant data to show it.

Air pollution is proven to exacerbate chronic lung ailments, and there is mounting evidence it also leads to stress, coronary diseases and inflammation.

"It seems incredible that the politicians and judges



Smog and fog envelop the Indian Presidential Palace, behind, as commuters cross a street in the morning in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014. On bad days in India's congested capital, the air is so murky it slows traffic to a crawl because visibility is so poor. Conversations are punctuated with rasping coughs. Weak bands of sunlight filter through a grainy sky.

Associated Press

living in Delhi would not be worried about how their families and children are

a new Health Ministry committee, formed two months ago with academics, officials and health workers, tasked with recommending ways to protect the public from dirty air.

Their report is due in a year. Comparing pollution levels between the two megacities, home to a combined 29 million people, seems natural

given their iconic status representing Asia's opportunity and growth. They both have gone through breakneck economic development that has transformed their landscapes within a generation, raising living standards but also spewing out loads of pol-



Indians burn the leftover food after a wedding in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014. New Delhi's worsening air pollution has drawn comparisons with Beijing, the world's pollution poster child.

Associated Press

suffering from the bad air," said Dr. K. Srinath Reddy, head of the Public Health Foundation of India. "People have to recognize the extent of the damage happening. That's where the outrage will come in. That's when the action will happen."

This week, Reddy co-chaired the first meeting of

lution.

Decades of policies that favored economic decisions over environmental concerns have taken their toll. Cars now represent the middle-class dream for thousands digging out of poverty, and decades of booming construction has kicked up countless clouds of dust. □

St. Valentines Menu Friday 14th February

CHOICE OF STARTERS

LOBSTER CAPPUCCINO Creamy lobster soup, chunks of shrimp and whipped saffron cream
MEAT RAVIOLI Served with Italian meat sauce
LOVER'S SALAD Watermelon, fresh tomato gazpacho, feta & lemon grass mint dressing

CHOICE OF ENTREES

SALMON AND SHRIMPS Grilled Salmon fillet served over bed of local spinach a top white wine and dill sauce accompanied by garlic battered shrimps and cheese gratin potatoes
SURF & TURF Grilled beef tenderloin served whit truffle mushroom sauce accompanied by Caribbean lobster tail, oven roasted herbed tomatoes, fresh seasonal veggies & citrus butter sauce
CARAMBOLA'S BOUILLABAISSE Shrimp, fish, squid, mussels & scallops cooked in creamy lobster reduction served with white rice and spiced guacamole

CHOICE OF DESSERTS

CHOCOLATE TRIO Chocolate mousse & chocolate ice cream served with chocolate sauce
CREME BRULEE DUO Cinnamon & mango creme brulee with marinated fruits
BOLO PRETO 'DARK RUM CAKE' Traditional Aruba cake! Served with pistachio punch

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Shirley Temple, iconic child star, dies at 85

MARTHA MENDOZA

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Shirley Temple, the dimpled, curly-haired child star who sang, danced, sobbed and grinned her way into the hearts of Depression-era moviegoers and later became a U.S. ambassador, has died, according to publicist. She was 85.

Temple, known in private life as Shirley Temple Black, died Monday night at about 11 p.m. local time at her home near San Francisco. She was surrounded by family members and caregivers, publicist Cheryl Kagan said.

"We salute her for a life of remarkable achievements as an actor, as a diplomat, and most importantly as our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and adored wife for fifty-five years of the late and much missed Charles Alden Black," a family statement said.

A talented and ultra-adorable entertainer, Shirley Temple was America's top box-office draw from 1935 to 1938, a record no other child star has come near. She beat out such grown-ups as Clark Gable, Bing Crosby, Robert Taylor, Gary Cooper and Joan Crawford.

In 1999, the American Film Institute ranking of the top 50 screen legends ranked Temple at No. 18 among the 25 actresses. She appeared in scores of movies and kept children singing "On the Good Ship Lollipop" for generations.

Temple was credited with helping save 20th Century Fox from bankruptcy with films such as "Curly Top" and "The Littlest Rebel." She even had a drink named after her, an appropriately sweet and innocent cocktail of ginger ale and grenadine, topped with a maraschino cherry.

Temple blossomed into a pretty young woman, but audiences lost interest, and she retired from films at 21. She raised a family and later became active in politics and held several diplomatic posts in Re-

publican administrations, including ambassador to Czechoslovakia during the historic collapse of communism in 1989.

"I have one piece of advice for those of you who want to receive the lifetime achievement award. Start early," she quipped in 2006 as she was honored by the Screen Actors Guild. But she also said that evening that her greatest roles were as wife, mother and grandmother.

"There's nothing like real love. Nothing." Her husband of more than 50 years, Charles Black, had died just a few months earlier.

They lived for many years in the San Francisco suburb of Woodside.

Temple's expert singing and tap dancing in the 1934 feature "Stand Up

marvelous, greatest in the world," director Allan Dwan told filmmaker-author Peter Bogdanovich in his book "Who the Devil Made It: Conversations With Legendary Film Directors." "With Shirley, you'd just tell her once and she'd remember the rest of her life," said Dwan, who directed "Heidi" and "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm." "Whatever it was she was supposed to do — she'd do it. ... And if one of the actors got stuck, she'd tell him what his line was — she knew it better than he did."

Temple's mother, Gertrude, worked to keep her daughter from being spoiled by fame and was a constant presence during filming. Her daughter said years later that her mother



In this Jan. 29, 2006 file photo, Shirley Temple Black accepts the Screen Actors Guild Awards life achievement award at the 12th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

and Cheer!" first gained her wide notice. The number she performed with future Oscar winner James Dunn, "Baby Take a Bow," became the title of one of her first starring features later that year.

Also in 1934, she starred in "Little Miss Marker," a comedy-drama based on a story by Damon Runyon that showcased her acting talent.

In "Bright Eyes," Temple introduced "On the Good Ship Lollipop" and did battle with a charmingly bratty Jane Withers, launching Withers as a major child star, too.

She was "just absolutely

had been furious when a director once sent her off on an errand and then got the child to cry for a scene by frightening her. "She never again left me alone on a set," she said.

Temple became a nationwide sensation. Mothers dressed their little girls like her, and a line of dolls was launched that are now highly sought-after collectables. Her immense popularity prompted President Franklin D. Roosevelt to say that "as long as our country has Shirley Temple, we will be all right."

"When the spirit of the people is lower than at any other time during this



Depression, it is a splendid thing that for just 15 cents, an American can go to a movie and look at the smiling face of a baby and forget his troubles," Roosevelt said.

She followed up in the next few years with a string of hit films, most with sentimental themes and musical subplots. She often played an orphan, as in "Curly Top," where she introduced the hit "Animal Crackers in My Soup," and "Stowaway," in which she was befriended by Robert Young, later of "Father Knows Best" fame. She teamed with the great black dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson in two 1935 films with Civil War themes, "The Little Colonel" and "The Littlest Rebel." Their tap dance up the steps in "The Little Colonel" (at a time when interracial teamings were unheard-of in Hollywood) became a landmark in the history of film dance.

Some of her pictures were remakes of silent films, such as "Captain January," in which she recreated the role originally played by the silent star Baby Peggy Montgomery in 1924. "Poor Little Rich Girl" and "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," done a generation earlier by Mary Pickford, were heavily rewritten for Temple, with show biz added to the plots to give her opportunities to sing.

In its review of "Rebecca," the show business publication Variety complained that a "more fitting title would be 'Rebecca of Radio City.'"

She won a special Acad-

emy Award in early 1935 for her "outstanding contribution to screen entertainment" in the previous year. "She is a legacy of a different time in motion pictures. She caught the imagination of the entire country in a way that no one had before," actor Martin Landau said when the two were honored at the Academy Awards in 1998.

Temple's fans agreed. Her fans seemed interested in every last golden curl on her head: It was once guessed that she had more than 50. Her mother was said to have done her hair in pin curls for each movie, with every hairstyle having exactly 56 curls.

On her eighth birthday — she actually was turning 9, but the studio wanted her to be younger — Temple received more than 135,000 presents from around the world, according to "The Films of Shirley Temple," a 1978 book by Robert Windeler.

The gifts included a baby kangaroo from Australia and a prize Jersey calf from schoolchildren in Oregon. "She's indelible in the history of America because she appeared at a time of great social need, and people took her to their hearts," the late Roddy McDowall, a fellow child star and friend, once said. Although by the early 1960s, she was retired from the entertainment industry, her interest in politics soon brought her back into the spotlight. She made an unsuccessful bid as a Republican candidate for Congress in 1967. □

Short doc aims to inspire dancing against violence

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) —

When the anti-violence organization V-Day announced plans to gather a billion people worldwide on Feb. 14 in a dancing demonstration to end violence against women and girls, some people said the goal was too ambitious. It couldn't be done.

Well, not only did they draw a billion dancers last year, they got it on film.

"One Billion Rising," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival last month and is now free to watch online, documents the global movement through the eyes of professional and amateur filmmakers in 207 countries. V-Day founder Eve Ensler described it as both a celebration and call to action, as another anti-violence dance-in is planned for this Valentine's Day on Friday. "It's a document of the biggest mass action in the history of the world probably, but definitely to end violence against women,"



This undated photo provided by the Sundance Institute shows a scene from the short film, "One Billion Rising," of an aboriginal woman rising outside of Sydney. The film was co-directed by Eve Ensler and Tony Stroebel. "One Billion Rising" premiered at the Sundance Film Festival last month and is now free to watch online - just in time to for this year's event on Friday, Feb. 14, 2014.

Associated Press

the playwright and activist said in an interview during Sundance. "Seeing that global solidarity is possible; seeing it through the arts and through dancing; seeing the amazing creativity of all the costumes and the performances — it's just so

inspiring to see what we can do when we join together as a world."

The film shows participants dancing in gymnasiums, classrooms, bedrooms, parking lots, theaters and public plazas. The breadth of countries and cultures

involved is shown through newscast clips, landscapes, dance styles and diverse costumes.

Actress and activist (or "actriverss," as she likes to say) Rosario Dawson, who serves on the V-Day board, said the global scope of

"One Billion Rising" is heartening — and warranted.

"One billion people standing up and rising around the world in such a huge action has never been seen before," she said. "It's beautiful to see so many people who have been victims themselves, who have been touched by violence in some way, now rising above it and extending their hand to other people." Ensler said she hopes the film helps expand participation in this year's event, One Billion Rising for Justice. Events are planned in South Africa, Sudan, Syria, India, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru and across the United States and Europe.

Ending violence against women is an easy cause to support, Ensler said.

"If we are beating, raping, cutting, undermining, burning, selling women, we are destroying the basis of life itself," she said. "And if one in three women is beaten or raped, that's most of us. If it's not happening to you, you know it can happen to you." □

U.S. newscaster apologizes for black actor mix-up

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Los Angeles newscaster apologized to Samuel L. Jackson on Monday for confusing him with fellow actor Laurence Fishburne during a live TV interview.

KTLA entertainment reporter Sam Rubin was interviewing Jackson on Monday morning about the film "RoboCop" when he asked the actor if he'd gotten a lot of reaction to his recent Super Bowl commercial.

When Jackson asked, "What Super Bowl commercial?" Rubin realized his mistake and began to apologize. But it was too late.

"You're as crazy as the people on Twitter," an animated Jackson, who was doing the interview by satellite from Atlanta, told Rubin. "I'm not Laurence

Fishburne. We don't all look alike. We may be all black and famous but we don't all look alike."

As Rubin, who is white, tried to apologize, a smiling Jackson went on at length, listing various black actors and their commercials. Video of the exchange quickly went viral.

"I'm the 'What's in Your Wallet,' black guy," he said of his own commercial for a credit-card company. "He's the car black guy. Morgan Freeman is the other credit-card black guy. You only hear his voice, though, so you probably won't confuse him with Laurence Fishburne."

Fishburne, the character Morpheus from the "Matrix" movies, appeared in the Super Bowl commercial for Kia automobiles.

The pair eventually got



This Dec. 1, 2008 file photo shows actor Samuel L. Jackson arriving at the American Cinematheque Award gala honoring him in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

back to talking about "RoboCop," with Jackson telling Rubin how highly he regards Michael Keaton and Gary Oldman, who appear in the film with him. "You do know who they all are though, right?" he

Donovan, Ray Davies part of Songwriters Hall class



This April 3, 2009 file photo shows musician Donovan participating in news conference to promote the "Change Begins Within" benefit concert for the David Lynch Foundation in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ray Davies and Donovan are among the 2014 class of the Songwriters Hall of Fame. The organization announced Tuesday that "Midnight Train to Geor-

gia" writer Jim Weatherly and English songwriter Graham Gouldman also made the cut. Mark James, the writer of "Always on My Mind" — covered by Elvis Presley and Willie Nelson — rounds out the list of five inductees. The new class beat out top acts that were also up for nomination, including Madonna, John Mellencamp, Sade, Nile Rodgers and Led Zepelin's Jimmy Page and Robert Plant. Davies, the Kinks leader singer and chief songwriter, penned the band's hits "You Really Got Me," "Tired of Waiting for You" and "All Day and All of the Night." He has also written for Van Halen and the Pretenders. Scottish singer-songwriter Donovan's hits include "Sunshine Superman," "Mellow Yellow" and "Atlantis." □

Other People's Views



DAVID BROOKS
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Let's say you're turning 40 and you realize you want to leave accounting and become a hip-hop artist. People will say you're having a pathetic midlife crisis, but should you do it anyway? Let's say you're on the phone in a crowded place and you want to tell your buddy a dirty joke, which may offend the people around you. Should you tell it? Let's say you have religious or political beliefs that make you unpopular. Should you hide or change them?

Let's say you are deeply in love with a person your friends dislike. Should you dump that person? I ask these questions because I think that we, as a society, are extremely confused about this issue: When should you care about what other people think and when should you not?

Officially, we tell each other we don't care. We are heirs to a 19th-century rugged individualism that says the individual should stand strong and self-reliant, not conform to the crowd. We are also heirs to a 20th-century ethic of authenticity that holds that each of us is called to be true to our sincere inner self, and that if we bend to please others we are failing in some fundamental way.

But, of course, in reality we do care what other people think. We are wired to connect, to seek the admiration of others. We want to be part of communities, which means obeying community norms.

Moreover, we live at a time of intense social insecurity. The Internet creates instant feedback, letting you know when people approve of you and when they don't. We are also living during an epidemic of conditional love. Many parents bestow or withdraw affection depending on how well their children are achieving, producing millions of young people without secure emotional foundations, who pine for any kind of approval.

I admit I'm confused myself about when you should pay attention to or ignore outside opinion. But I'll throw out four different ways of thinking about the question, corresponding to the four questions at the top of this column.

First, the hip-hop artist ques-

tion. Here it might be best to defer to public opinion. People tend to make poor decisions at moments of life transition, so at these moments, lean in the direction of respecting to the wisdom of the crowd. Have a midlife crisis, but in less stereotypical form.

Then, the question of the dirty joke. This is a question of manners. Here, too, it's probably a good idea to give priority to other people's views. The manners and mores of a community are a shared possession. When you violate social norms, you are not only being rude to people around you, but you are making it more likely that others will violate the norms in the future. You are tearing the social fabric.

In most circumstances, therefore, we owe it to our group to usually follow the rules that help people behave considerately. Put social niceties above individual desire. Don't tell the joke. Then the question of the unpopular belief. In this case, it is clearly wrong to sacrifice some of your conviction for immediate popularity. Basically you are trading in something deep for something shallow.

Most of our core beliefs originated with some great figure from the distant past. These ideas, creeds or faiths were then nurtured by generations of other people, who are also now mostly dead. They created a transcendent tradition, which we embrace and hope in turn to pass along to generations as yet unborn. No sensible person would ever be happy betraying the approval of the admired dead just to win some passing approval in the here and now.

Finally, the question of the unpopular fiancé. This is tricky because it depends on what kind of feedback other people are offering. If they are talking about your boyfriend's status (he's too ugly; he's got a bad job) then outside opinion doesn't matter. But they may be observing something about the internal nature of your relationship that you are too blinded by passion to see. Maybe they can discern that he hurts you in this way or that. In this case, outside advice is not about approval; it's about wisdom at a time when your emotions are clouding your judgment.

To sum up, I can't find any universal rules about when to defer to outside approval. It depends on the circumstances. It does seem that people should defer less to public approval as they age. At 15, it's normal to be socially insecure. By 45, unless you're in a crisis, you should have distilled enough ancient wisdom to have inner criteria.

Plus, sometimes it's smart to attract ridicule for its own sake. You'll learn that it really does you no harm if you don't let it. Your friends will laugh at you. And accept you in the end. □



A Pen, A Phone And A Meme



CHARLES M. BLOW
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The Republican messaging machine is at it again, cranking out scurrilous memes that defame the president and distract from the party's inaction.

The latest talking point is that the president is a "lawless" "dictator" hellbent on operating outside, and indeed above, the law.

This is not a particularly new line of attack. Conservatives have been using some variation of the lawlessness theme for some time to refer to the president's actions, particularly to the administration's adjustments to the Affordable Care Act.

But the distillation and repetition of the word "lawless" gathered new steam last month when the president signaled that he would work with Congress where he could but would issue executive orders, to the extent that he could, when he was stymied by Congress.

Before a Cabinet meeting, the president said, "One of the things that I will be emphasizing in this meeting is the fact that we are not going to be waiting for legislation in order to make sure that we are providing Americans the

kind of help that they need." He added, "I've got a pen, and I've got a phone."

Before the president could even repeat the sentiment in his State of the Union speech, Republicans were up in arms.

Rep. Tim Huelskamp tweeted that night, "1st Release of Obama speech reads like the dictates from a King. All orders he will do to bypass Congress #LawLess."

Huelskamp went on to repeat the #LawLess hashtag throughout the night, and it was picked up by others.

After the speech, Michele Bachmann threatened to sue the "king," Obama.

It seems to matter not that this president has in no way been an abuser of executive orders. Quite the opposite. According to the American Presidency Project, a collaboration between John T. Woolley and Gerhard Peters at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Obama had issued only 168 executive orders as of Jan. 20, fewer than any two-term president in more than 100 years. Still, the "lawless" messaging has only picked up steam.

On Sunday, Paul Ryan, appearing on the ABC News show "This Week," said: "It's not the number of executive orders; it's the scope of the executive orders. It's the fact that he's actually contradicting law, like in the health care case, or proposing new laws without going through Congress." Ryan continued, "We have an increasingly lawless presidency where he is actually doing the job of Congress, writing policies and new laws without going through Congress. Presidents don't write laws; Con-

gress does."

The Republican senator and likely presidential candidate Ted Cruz told Glenn Beck on Tuesday that "there is a pattern of lawlessness in this administration that is breathtaking."

The latest application of the lawlessness meme has emerged on the immigration debate.

On Thursday, Sen. Pete Sessions, R-Ala., expressed his opposition to immigration reform in a statement, saying that "the administration's aggressive defiance of congressionally enacted law is a profound obstacle in the way of any proposed immigration changes." He continued, "President Obama must end the immigration lawlessness."

Also Thursday, House Speaker John Boehner signaled that he might be caving on pushing immigration this year, saying in part: "Listen, there's widespread doubt about whether this administration can be trusted to enforce our laws. It's going to be difficult to move any immigration legislation until that changes."

It is a particularly tortured construct: Congress won't make laws for fear the president won't respect them.

Even the conservative Wall Street Journal editorial page wasn't buying that one, as it chided the House GOP for its "fear of a talk-radio backlash" in not moving forward even on immigration proposals that most Republicans support.

This lawlessness talk is simply another iteration of the "othering" of this president. Paint him as a criminal, an enemy to the rule of law, and by extension, to the construct of America. America is, after all, a nation of laws. □

The Dirty Martini Cleans Up Well



Masa Urushido mixes the Olives 7 Ways martini at Saxon & Parole in New York. The cocktail was created to take dirty martinis a few steps higher, and it makes a nice mixer for future drinks. (Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times)

ROBERT SIMONSON

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NEW YORK - In this age of the aspirational cocktail, when bar menus can read like manifestoes or museum catalogs, certain drink orders are guaranteed to ignite the spleen of the serious bartender. Among them: the mojito (a lot of labor, particularly if customers ask for seven, which they often do); the Cosmopolitan ("Sex and the City" ended awhile back); the vodka Red Bull (take your bad decisions outside); and the Bloody Mary, if ordered at night (seriously?).

And then there is the dirty martini, a salty invention that crowns the martini, a flawless drink, with a slop of random olive brine. It is the poison of choice of many a customer but, to some mixologists, just plain poison.

One New York bartender, Naren Young, decided to do something about it. "It all started with the fact that I hate dirty martinis," said Young, the beverage director for the Empellón Mexican restaurants. "I

used that as a challenge. How can we turn this into something respectable?" Simply ignoring the cocktail was not an option, since there is probably one being ordered in half the bars in Manhattan this very moment. That includes Saxon & Parole, the East Village restaurant and bar where Naren was in charge of the cocktail program until August. "It's such an important drink in the New York scene," he said. "Not important, like the Manhattan is important. But they're everywhere." So he tried taking the dirty martini a few steps up in class. The result, two years in the making, is Olives 7 Ways, a drink that this week joined the menu at Saxon & Parole.

To create the cocktail, which has as many working parts as a Swiss watch, Young marshaled forces from all over New York. He began by throwing out the olive brine that defines the dirty martini. He replaced it with an olive distillate, made (in collaboration with New York

Distilling Co., in Brooklyn) by sending chopped Cerignola olives and neutral spirit through a small still. Just a touch of the spirit goes in the drink.

He then commissioned Zachary Feldman, the

The gin in the cocktail is a potent one: Perry's Tot, a navy-strength version (57 percent alcohol) made by New York Distilling. The vermouth is Noilly Prat, infused with Cerignola olives. Also in the drink is



The Olives 7 Ways martini at Saxon & Parole in New York. (Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times)

owner of Bitters, Old Men, a Manhattan maker of bitters, to create a custom olive bitters. Feldman used a mix of olive varieties from Greece, Italy, France and Spain, as well as oil-cured Moroccan olives and equal parts gential root and wormwood.

a small amount of olive shrub, a traditional acidic beverage made with olives, sugar and vinegar. Finally, the concoction is topped with an additional spray of the olive bitters and a few dots of olive oil, which rest on the surface. A small dish of ol-

ives, as well as botanicals found in the gin, accompany the drink. (If you're counting, it does indeed involve olives seven different ways.)

The cocktail is full-bodied and rich, owing to the shrub, the infused vermouth and a fairly wet, 50-50 ratio between the vermouth and gin. It is also more elegant than any offspring of the dirty martini deserves to be. "You'd think it would be an olive bomb," Young said, "but it's really subtle." And fairly complicated. For the home bartender, Young has devised the simplified recipe provided here. It requires infusing your own vermouth with olives, but the process requires little more than some planning, and leaves you with a nice mixer for future drinks.

THE IMPROVED DIRTY MARTINI

From Naren Young, beverage director, Empellón restaurants, New York
Time: 5 minutes, plus 3 days to infuse vermouth
Yield: 1 drink

375 milliliters dry vermouth, preferably Noilly Prat

1/2 cup chopped Cerignola olives

1 1/2 ounces navy-strength gin, preferably Perry's Tot

A few drops of extra-virgin olive oil

Mixed olives, for serving

1. Combine vermouth and chopped olives in a sealed glass container and let sit for 3 days. Shake periodically.

2. Chill a cocktail glass by filling it with ice or putting it in the freezer for about 5 minutes.

3. In a mixing glass filled three-quarters full with ice, pour the gin and 1 1/2 ounces of the infused vermouth. Stir until chilled, about 30 seconds, and strain into the chilled glass. Carefully drip a few drops of olive oil (with an eye-dropper, if possible) onto the drink's surface. Serve with a small dish of mixed olives. □